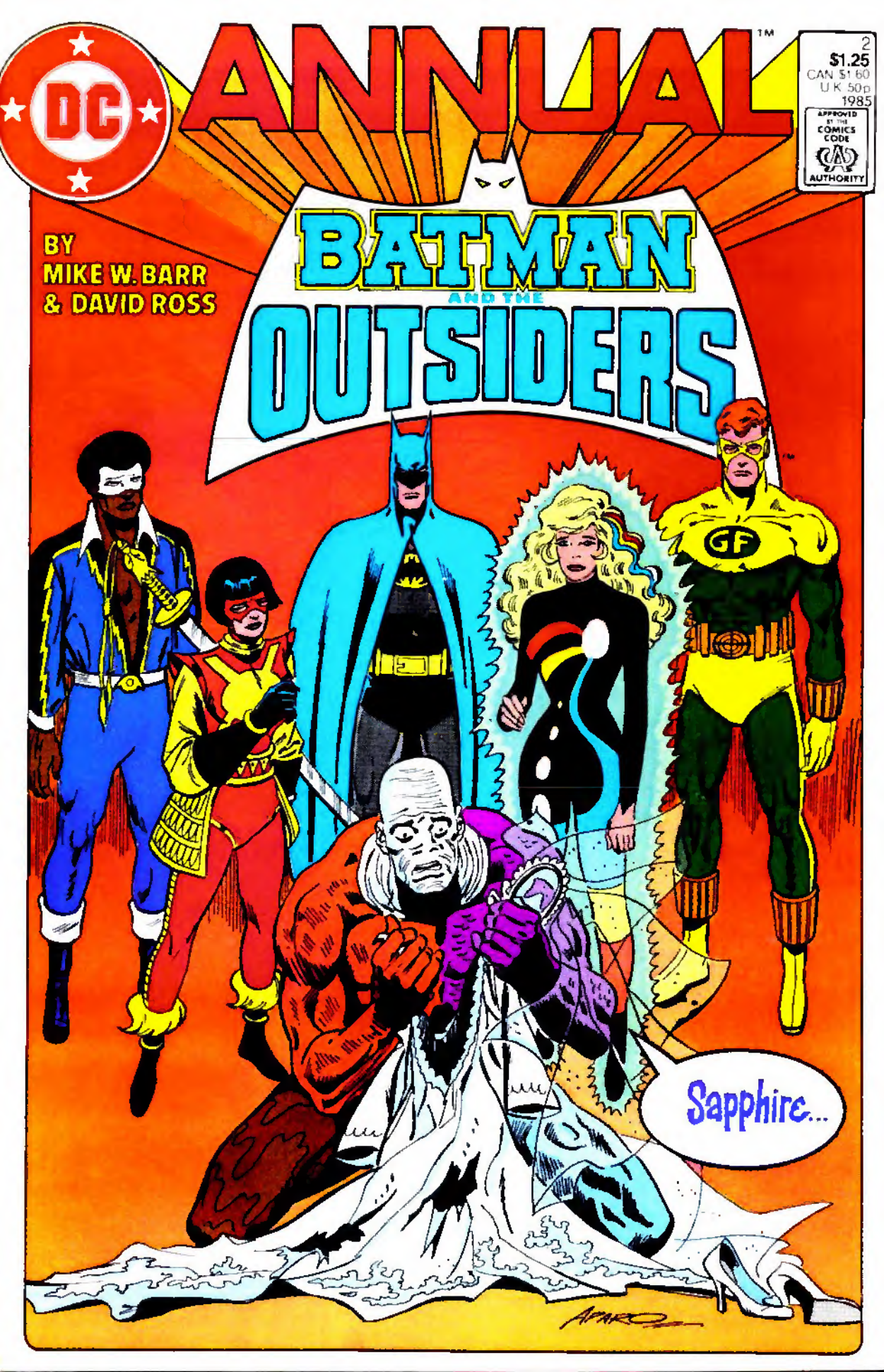
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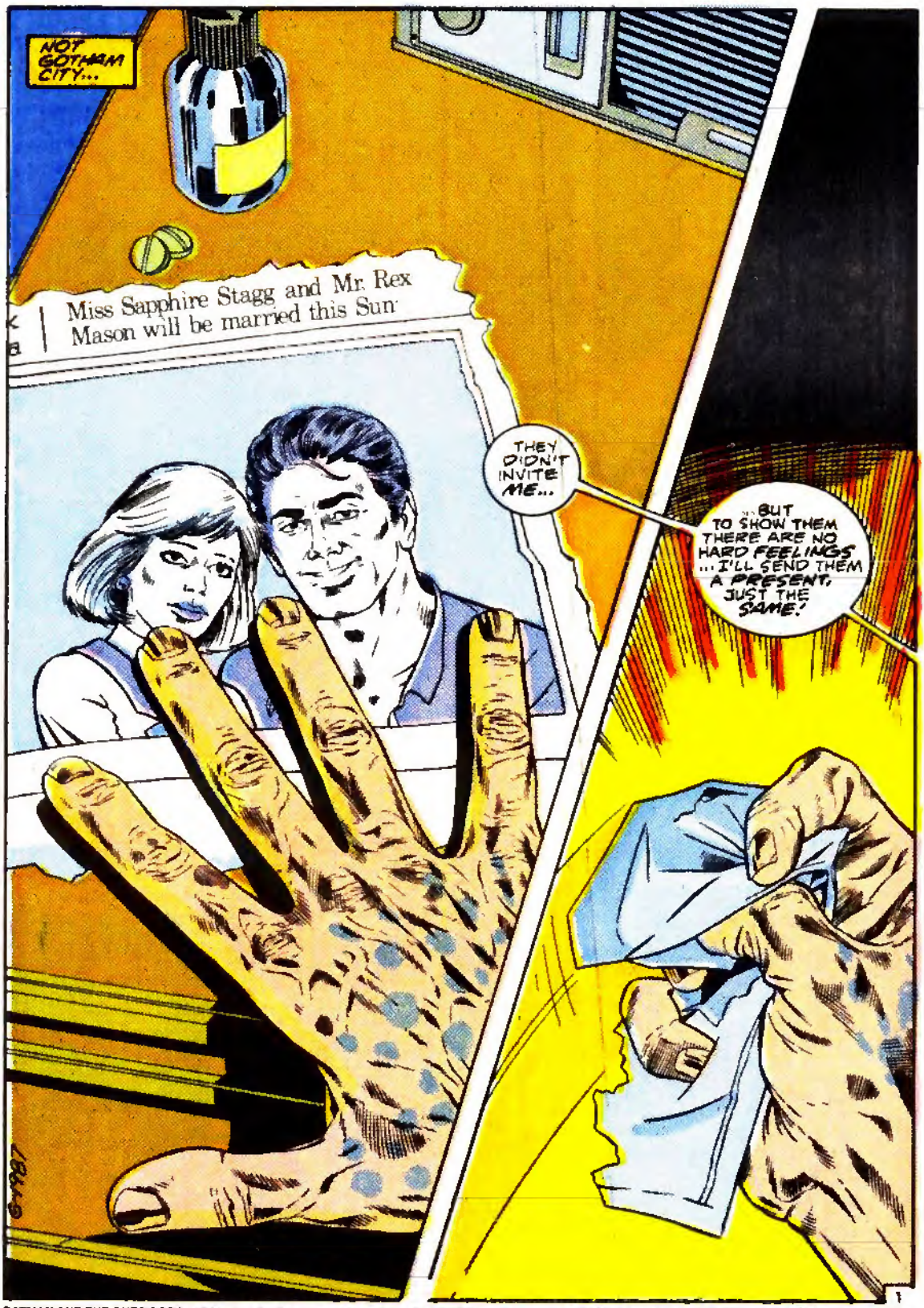
NOT GOTHAM CITY...
Miss Sapphire Stagg and Mr. Rex Mason will be married this Sun
THEY DIDN'T INVITE ME...
...BUT TO SHOW THEM THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS ... I'LL SEND THEM A PRESENT, JUST THE SAME!

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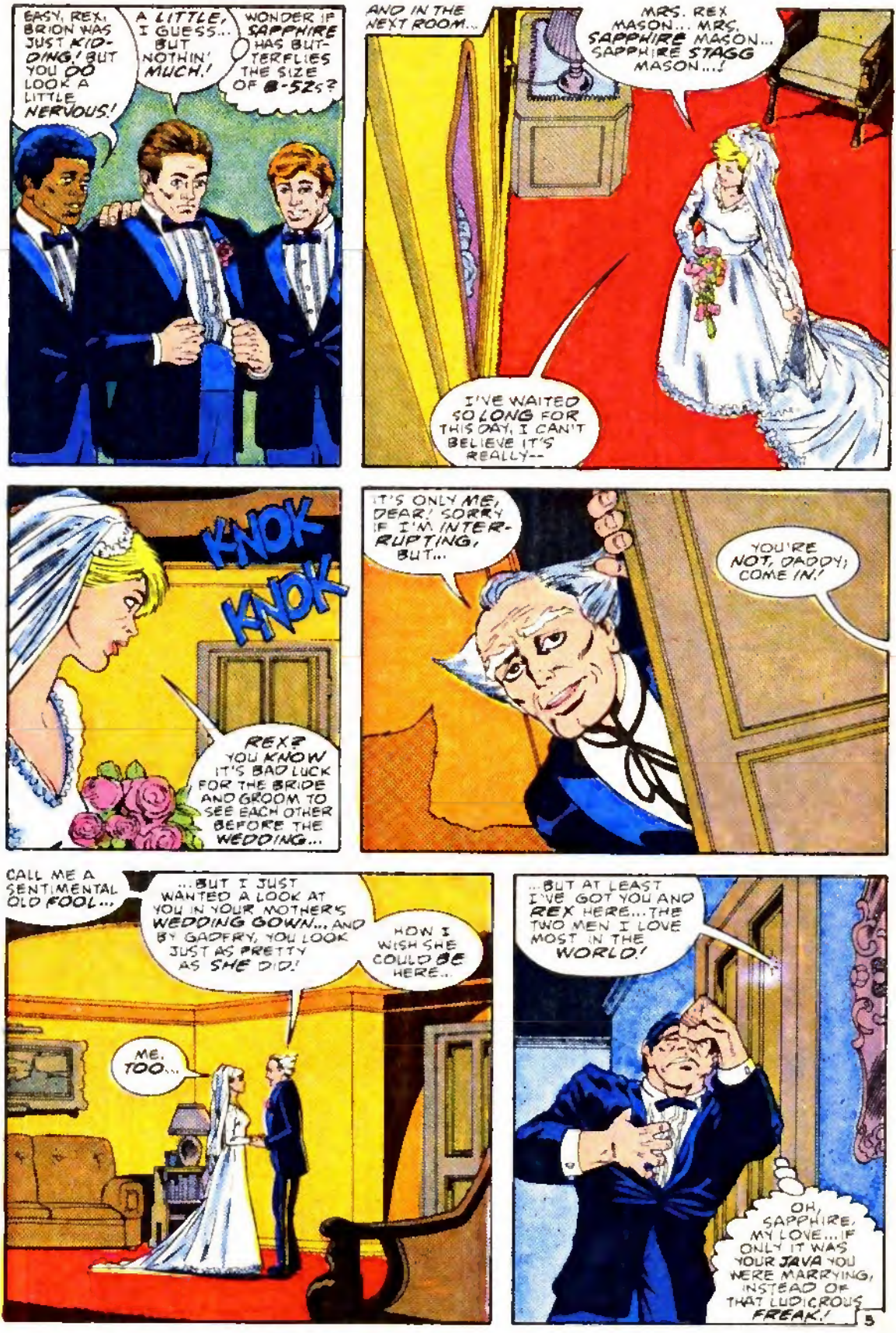
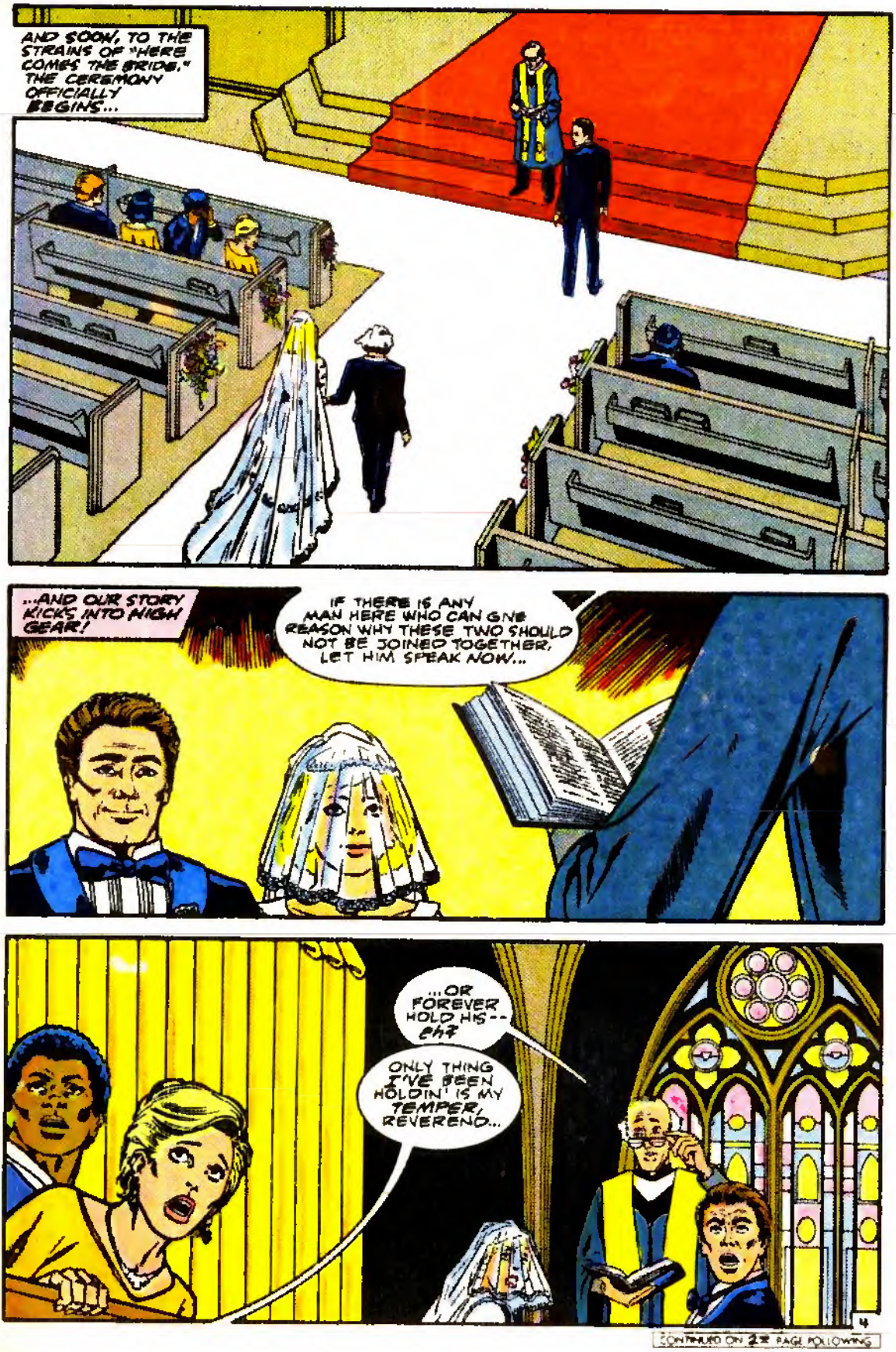
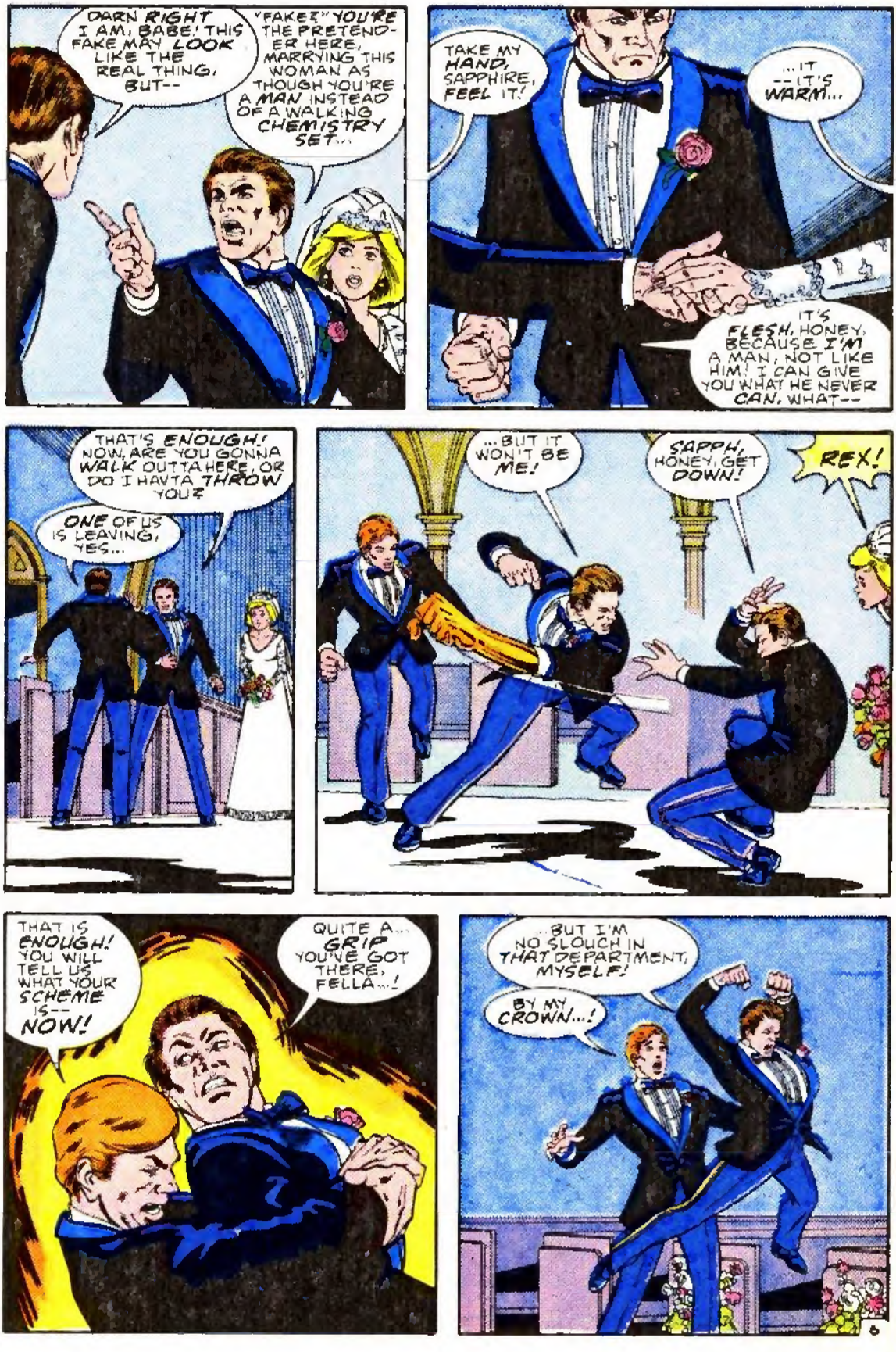
GOTHAM CITY...
ARE YOU READY, GABRIELLE?
ALMOST, TATSU...
...IT WAS REALLY NICE OF SAPPHIRE TO ASK US TO BE HER BRIDESMAIDS, WASN'T IT? IT'S SO ROMANTIC...? Sigh!
...I'M GONNA CRY... I JUST KNOW I AM!
I'LL HAVE A HANDKERCHIEF READY, JUST IN CASE!
AND NEARBY...
WELL, GUESS THIS IS IT. I--
IT'S ALMOST TIME, REX...
...ARE YOU READY?
READY AS I'LL EVER BE, BRION. YOU'VE STILL GOT THE RING, DON'TCHA?
RIGHT HERE, M, FRIEND! YOU DON'T GET OUT OF IT THAT EASILY!
WHO'S TRYIN' TO GET OUT OF ANYTHING?
2

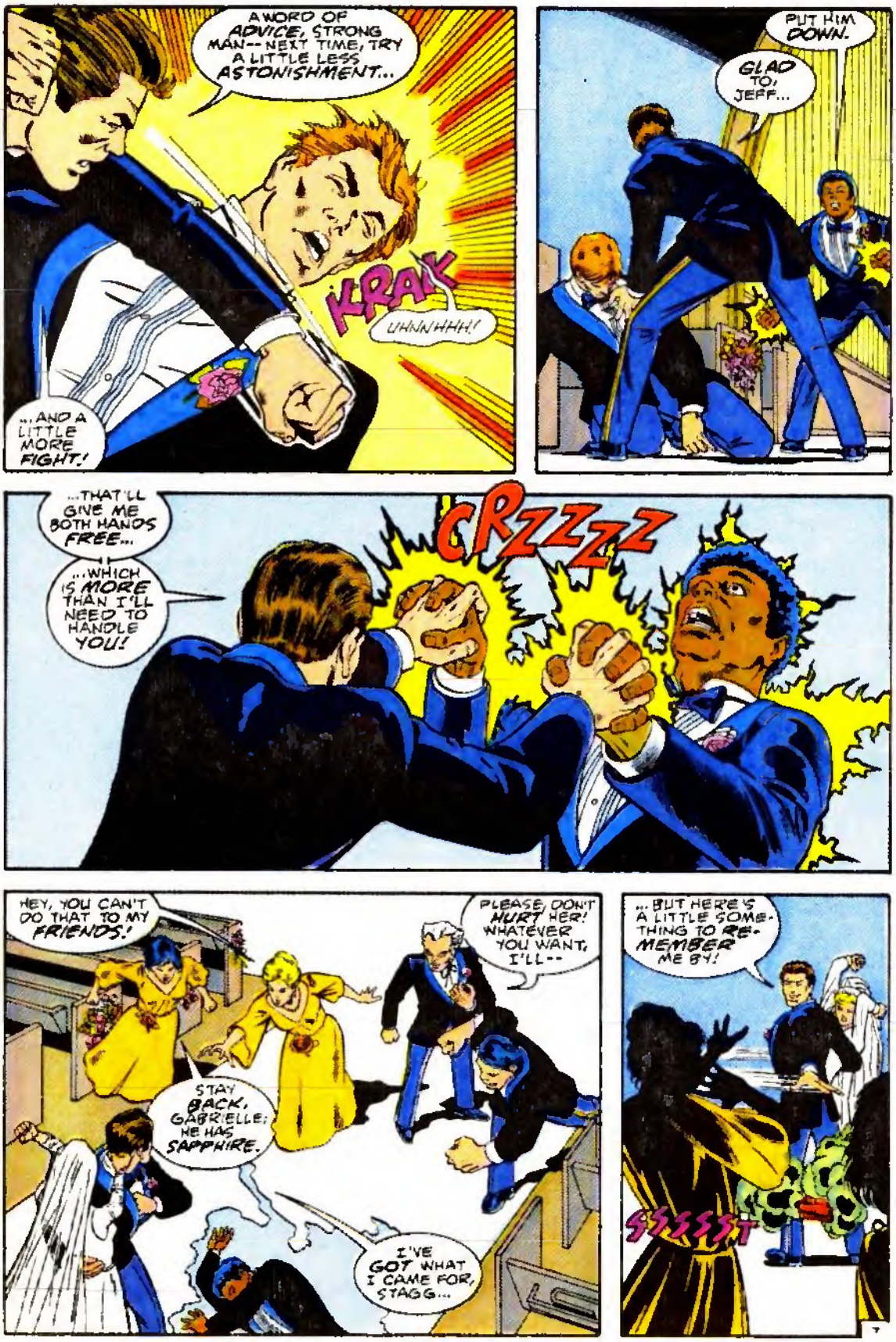

EASY, REX. BRION WAS JUST KIDDING, BUT YOU DO LOOK A LITTLE NERVOUS!
A LITTLE, I GUESS... BUT NOTHIN' MUCH!
WONDER IF SAPPHIRE HAS BUTTERFLIES THE SIZE OF B-52s?
AND IN THE NEXT ROOM...
MRS. REX MASON... MRS. SAPPHIRE MASON... SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON...!
I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS DAY, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY--
KNOK KNOK
REX? YOU KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM TO SEE EACH OTHER BEFORE THE WEDDING...
IT'S ONLY ME, DEAR! SORRY IF I'M INTERRUPTING, BUT...
YOU'RE NOT, DADDY; COME IN!
CALL ME A SENTIMENTAL OLD FOOL...
...BUT I JUST WANTED A LOOK AT YOU IN YOUR MOTHER'S WEDDING GOWN... AND BY GADFRY, YOU LOOK JUST AS PRETTY AS SHE DID!
HOW I WISH SHE COULD BE HERE...
ME, TOO...
...BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT YOU AND REX HERE... THE TWO MEN I LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD!
OH, SAPPHIRE, MY LOVE... IF ONLY IT WAS YOUR JAVA YOU WERE MARRYING, INSTEAD OF THAT LUDICROUS FREAK!

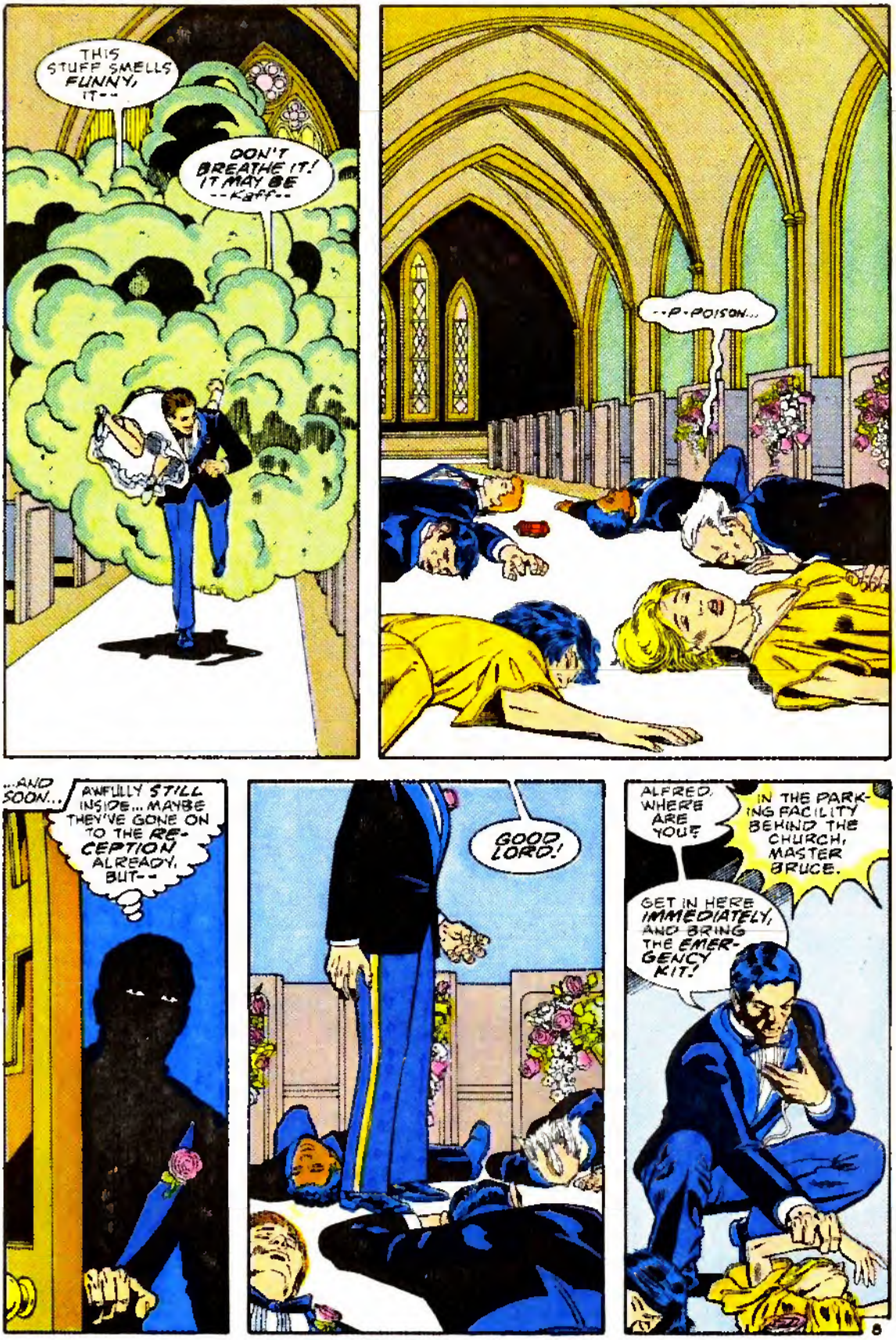

AND SOON, TO THE STRAINS OF "HERE COMES THE BRIDE," THE CEREMONY OFFICIALLY BEGINS...
...AND OUR STORY KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR!
IF THERE IS ANY MAN HERE WHO CAN GIVE REASON WHY THESE TWO SHOULD NOT BE JOINED TOGETHER, LET HIM SPEAK NOW...
...OR FOREVER HOLD HIS-- eh?
ONLY THING I'VE BEEN HOLDIN' IS MY TEMPER, REVEREND...

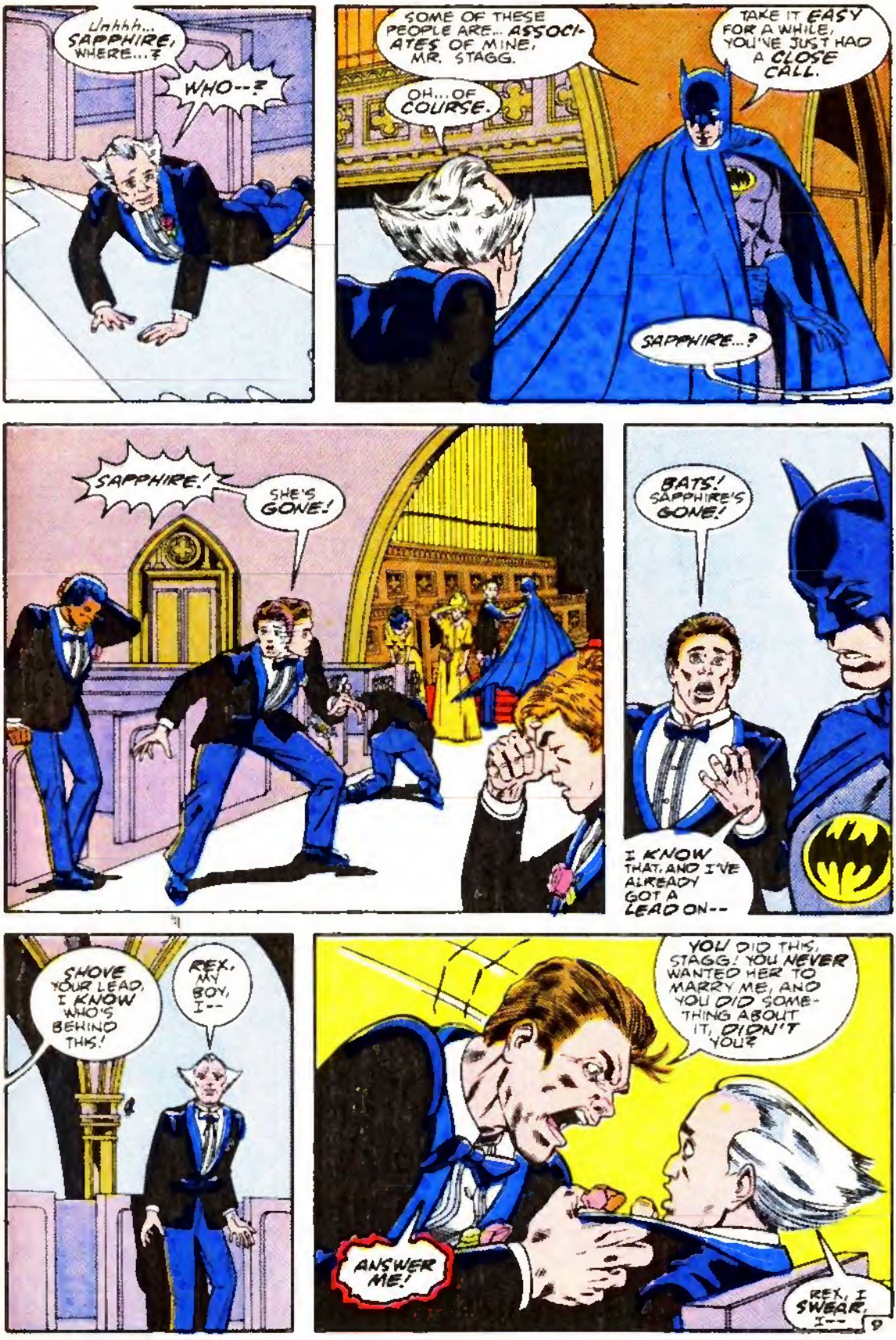
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS
DISSEMBLER AT THE WEDDING!
CREATED BY MIKE W. BARR & JIM APARO
...BUT THAT'S OVER NOW! THIS PHONY CAN TAKE MY NAME, AND EVEN MY FACE...
...BUT WHEN HE TRIES TO TAKE MY SAPPHIRE, HE'S GOIN' TOO FAR!
HOLY... BLUE... BLAZES...!
B-BUT YOU'RE REX... AREN'T YOU?
MIKE W. BARR WRITER/ EDITOR
DAVID ROSS AND DAN ADKINS ARTISTS
JOHN WORKMAN, JR. LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST


DARN RIGHT I AM, BABE! THIS FAKE MAY LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING, BUT--
"FAKE?" YOU'RE THE PRETENDER HERE, MARRYING THIS WOMAN AS THOUGH YOU'RE A MAN INSTEAD OF A WALKING CHEMISTRY SET...
TAKE MY HAND, SAPPHIRE, FEEL IT!
...IT --IT'S WARM...
IT'S FLESH, HONEY, BECAUSE I'M A MAN, NOT LIKE HIM! I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT HE NEVER CAN, WHAT--
THAT'S ENOUGH! NOW, ARE YOU GONNA WALK OUTTA HERE, OR DO I HAVTA THROW YOU?
ONE OF US IS LEAVING, YES...
...BUT IT WON'T BE ME!
SAPPH, HONEY, GET DOWN!
REX!
THAT IS ENOUGH! YOU WILL TELL US WHAT YOUR SCHEME IS-- NOW!
QUITE A... GRIP YOU'VE GOT THERE, FELLA...!
...BUT I'M NO SLOUCH IN THAT DEPARTMENT, MYSELF!
BY MY CROWN...!


A WORD OF ADVICE, STRONG MAN-- NEXT TIME, TRY A LITTLE LESS ASTONISHMENT...
KRAK
UHNNHHH!
...AND A LITTLE MORE FIGHT!
PUT HIM DOWN.
GLAD TO, JEFF...
...THAT'LL GIVE ME BOTH HANDS FREE...
...WHICH IS MORE THAN I'LL NEED TO HANDLE YOU!
CRZZZZZ
HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO MY FRIENDS!
PLEASE, DON'T HURT HER! WHATEVER YOU WANT, I'LL--
STAY BACK, GABRIELLE: HE HAS SAPPHIRE.
I'VE GOT WHAT I CAME FOR, STAGG...
...BUT HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!
SSSSSST


THIS STUFF SMELLS FUNNY, IT--
DON'T BREATHE IT! IT MAY BE --Kaff--
--P-POISON...
...AND SOON...
AWFULLY STILL INSIDE... MAYBE THEY'VE GONE ON TO THE RE-CEPTION ALREADY. BUT--
GOOD LORD!
ALFRED, WHERE ARE YOU?
IN THE PARK-ING FACILITY BEHIND THE CHURCH, MASTER BRUCE.
GET IN HERE IMMEDIATELY, AND BRING THE EMER-GENCY KIT!


Unhhh... SAPPHIRE, WHERE...?
WHO--?
SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE... ASSOCIATES OF MINE, MR. STAGG.
OH... OF COURSE.
TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE, YOU'VE JUST HAD A CLOSE CALL.
SAPPHIRE...?
SAPPHIRE!
SHE'S GONE!
BATS! SAPPHIRE'S GONE!
I KNOW THAT. AND I'VE ALREADY GOT A LEAD ON--
SHOVE YOUR LEAD, I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS!
REX, MY BOY, I--
YOU DID THIS, STAGG! YOU NEVER WANTED HER TO MARRY ME, AND YOU DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
ANSWER ME!
REX, I SWEAR, I--

REX, LET HIM SPEAK!
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, METAMORPHO.
OH, YEAH? YOU GOT A LIE DETECTOR UP YOUR SLEEVE, TOO?
NOT TODAY; I DON'T NEED ONE!
THAT GAS YOU WERE EXPOSED TO WAS TOXIC, YOU'D BE DEAD NOW...
...IF I HADN'T GIVEN YOU ALL THE PROPER ANTI-TOXINS IN TIME!
AND STAGG ALMOST BOUGHT IT, TOO. HUH?
EVEN MORE QUICKLY THAN THE REST OF YOU, DUE TO HIS OLDER CONSTITUTION!
WELL, THEN, WHO IS BEHIND THIS? YOU SAID YOU HAD A LEAD...
I HAVE. THE GAS USED ON YOU WAS DEVELOPED DURING WORLD WAR II BY A SCIENTIST WHO TURNED TRAITOR...
...A MAN NAMED MAXWELL TREMAYNE!
TREMAYNE!
THERE'S A CONNECTION!

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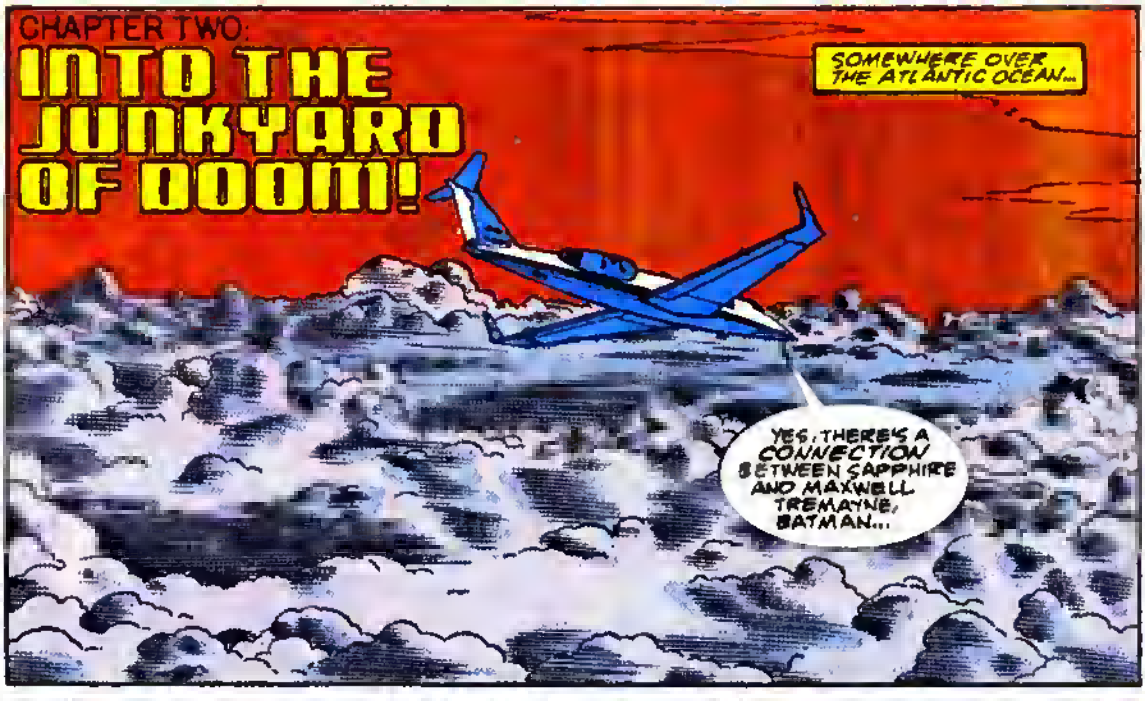
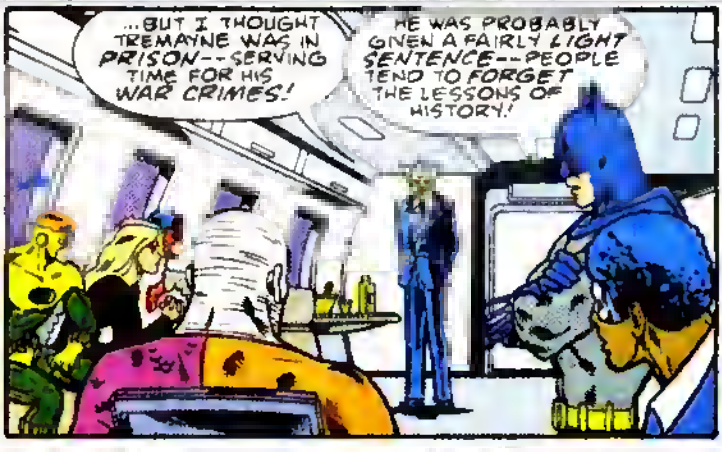
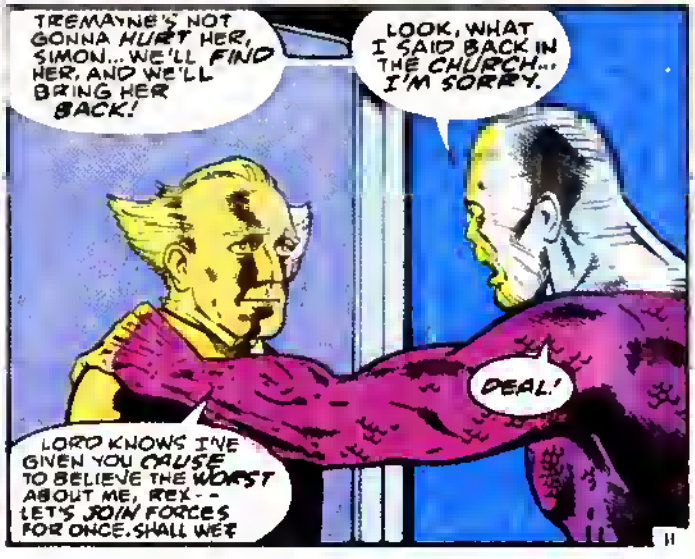

CHAPTER TWO:
INTO THE JUNKYARD OF DOOM!
SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...
YES, THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN SAPPHIRE AND MAXWELL TREMAYNE, BATMAN...


...BUT I THOUGHT TREMAYNE WAS IN PRISON--SERVING TIME FOR HIS WAR CRIMES!
HE WAS PROBABLY GIVEN A FAIRLY LIGHT SENTENCE--PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET THE LESSONS OF HISTORY!

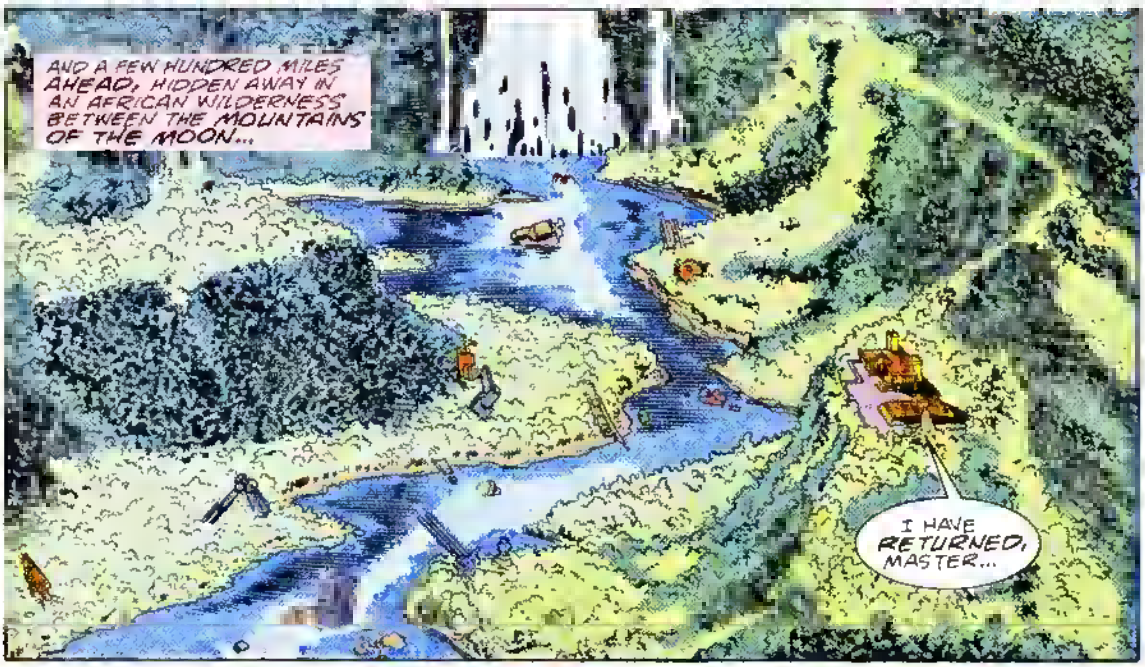
WELL, I AIN'T FORGOTTEN HOW HE HAD A CRUSH ON SAPPHIRE--HE TRIED TO KIDNAP HER ONCE!+
+WAY BACK IN BRAVE & BOLD #59--METAMORPHO'S SECOND ADVENTURE!--MWB

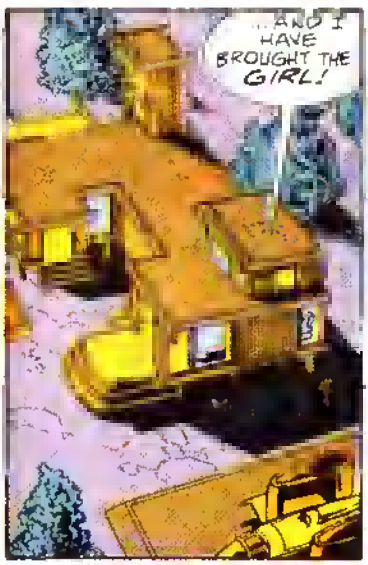
YES...YEARS AGO, WE WERE RIVALS FOR THE HAND OF SAPPHIRE'S MOTHER, DEAR, DEAR MARA... SAPPHIRE LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE HER...
I ONLY HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE... IF WE ARE...

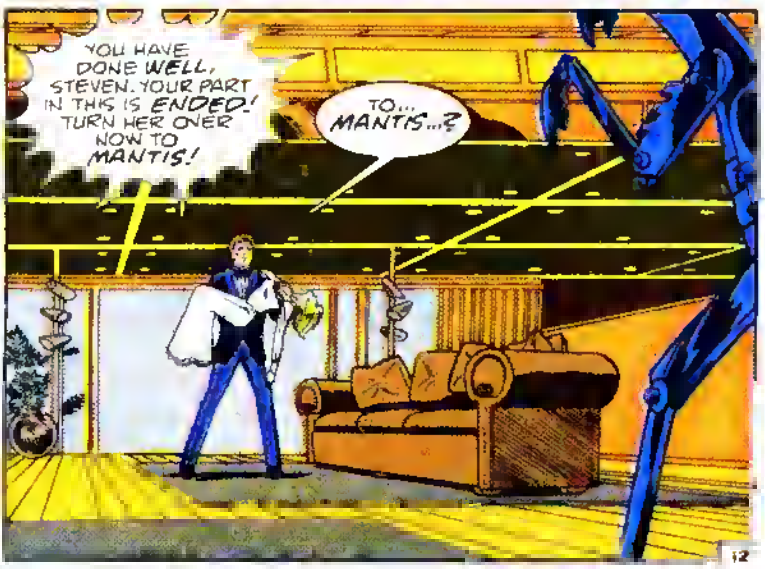

TREMAYNE'S NOT GONNA HURT HER, SIMON...WE'LL FIND HER, AND WE'LL BRING HER BACK!
LOOK, WHAT I SAID BACK IN THE CHURCH... I'M SORRY.
DEAL!
LORD KNOWS I'VE GIVEN YOU CAUSE TO BELIEVE THE WORST ABOUT ME, REX--LET'S JOIN FORCES FOR ONCE, SHALL WE?

AND DON'T FORGET US, METAMORPHO... WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE, TOO!
BOY, YOU BET!

PERHAPS THIS TIME, MASON'S LUCK WILL RUN OUT...
...THEN SAPPHIRE WILL BE MINE!


AND A FEW HUNDRED MILES AHEAD, HIDDEN AWAY IN AN AFRICAN WILDERNESS BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON...
I HAVE RETURNED, MASTER...


...AND I HAVE BROUGHT THE GIRL!

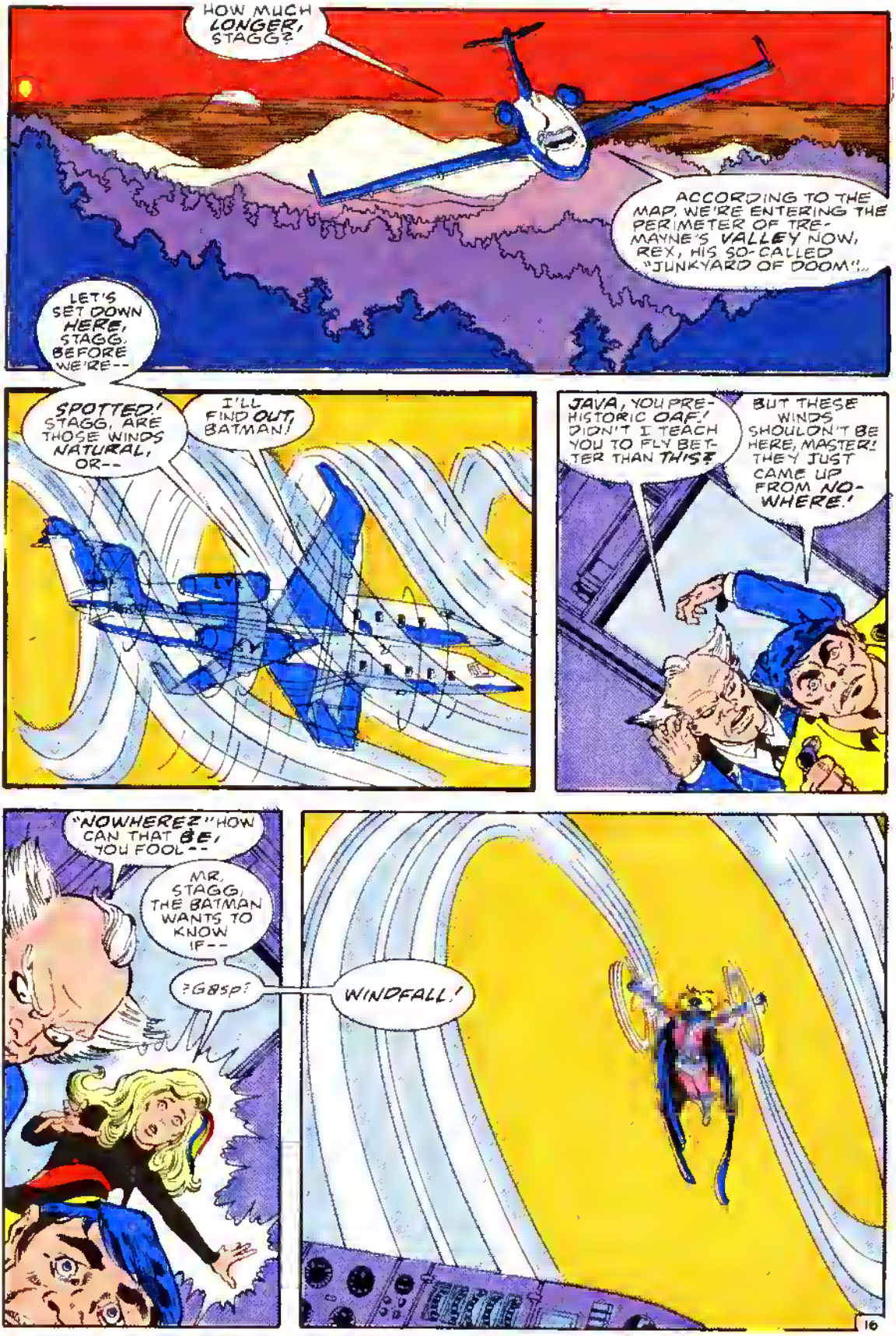

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, STEVEN. YOUR PART IN THIS IS ENDED! TURN HER OVER NOW TO MANTIS!
TO... MANTIS...?

NO! THAT CREATURE MIGHT HARM HER!
VERY WELL. [Sigh] PUT HER ON THE COUCH, THEN COME AND HELP ME INTO THE APPARATUS!
AND SOON...
Uhhhhh... REX, WHERE'S...
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT HIM, MARA DEAR... AND THAT WILL BE FAR EASIER THAN YOU THINK!
EEEK!
DO YOU REMEMBER ME, MARA DEAR? TELL ME YOU DO!
TREMAYNE?! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN PRISON!
I WAS, MARA, AND FOR YEARS ONLY YOUR MEMORY KEPT ME ALIVE...
...UNTIL AT LAST...
...THEY TOOK PITY ON AN OLD MAN AND FREED ME!
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME MARA? THAT WAS MY MOTHER'S NAME!
YOUR MOTHER... YES...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

...MARA... I LOVED HER, BUT YOUR FATHER TOOK HER FROM ME... TOLD HER LIES ABOUT ME...
...I NEVER STOPPED LOVING HER. NEVER STOPPED TRYING TO MAKE HER MINE...
...I THOUGHT I HAD LOST HER FOREVER WHEN SHE DIED. BUT THEN I LEARNED OF YOU... AND NOW WE'RE TOGETHER, AS I ALWAYS WANTED.
BUT WHO... WHO'S HE? HE LOOKS LIKE REX, BUT--
HE CAN LOOK LIKE ANYONE, MY DEAR! STEVEN, I THINK YOUR CURRENT FACE UNNERVES THE LADY...
...ASSUME YOUR PRIMAL FACE, WOULD YOU, PLEASE?
GLADLY, SIR.
I CAN SENSE MISS STAGG'S UNEASE AT MY PRESENCE...
...AND THE LAST THING I WOULD WISH TO DO WOULD BE TO MAKE HER UNCOMFORTABLE!
IS THIS BETTER, MISS STAGG?
UH...
STEVEN IS THE ULTIMATE CHEMICAL MIMIC, MARA. ABLE TO PERFECTLY ASSUME THE APPEARANCE OR ABILITIES OF ANYONE!
BECAUSE OF THIS, I CALL HIM "EVEN STEVEN!" HEH HEH! HE'LL BE THE PERFECT COMPANION FOR US AS WE--
YES, MANTIS, WHAT IS IT? THE RADAR SCREEN? LET'S HAVE A LOOK...

YES, SOMEONE IS APPROACHING, MANTIS. :Sigh: I WAS AFRAID THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! TELL MY UNDERLINGS TO STEP IN HERE, WOULD YOU?
"UNDERLINGS?"
EH?
OH, THERE YOU ARE! I THOUGHT YOU WERE--
"IN OUR PLACE," TREMAYNE, YOU MAY HAVE HIRED US TO CLEAR OUT THIS GOD-FORSAKEN VALLEY OF YOURS...
...BUT THE MASTERS OF DISASTER ARE NO ONE'S "UNDERLINGS!"
YOU T-TELL HIM, NEW-WAVE!
SHUT UP, SHAKEDOWN!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE FOR US TO DO, TREMAYNE! WE'RE AVAILABLE, BUT OUR PRICE THIS TIME IS $500,000!
AGREED, MY DEAR!
I DO LIKE A WOMAN WHO KNOWS HER OWN WORTH!


HOW MUCH LONGER, STAGG?
ACCORDING TO THE MAP, WE'RE ENTERING THE PERIMETER OF TREMAYNE'S VALLEY NOW, REX, HIS SO-CALLED "JUNKYARD OF DOOM"...
LET'S SET DOWN HERE, STAGG, BEFORE WE'RE--
SPOTTED! STAGG, ARE THOSE WINDS NATURAL, OR--
I'LL FIND OUT, BATMAN!
JAVA, YOU PREHISTORIC OAF! DIDN'T I TEACH YOU TO FLY BETTER THAN THIS?
BUT THESE WINDS SHOULDN'T BE HERE, MASTER! THEY JUST CAME UP FROM NOWHERE!
"NOWHEREZ"? HOW CAN THAT BE, YOU FOOL--
MR. STAGG, THE BATMAN WANTS TO KNOW IF--
?G85P?
WINDFALL!

BATMAN! BATMAN!! IT'S WINDFALL! SHE'S HERE!
LET ME GO OUT AND TALK TO WINDFALL! SHE WON'T HURT ME--
THEN THE REST OF THEM CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN OF THAT, HALO! GEO-FORCE, GET US DOWN!
IMMEDIATELY!
A SIMPLE TASK, ACTUALLY! THESE CYCLONIC WINDS ARE STRONG ENOUGH...
... TO BUFFET THE PLANE LIKE A TOY...
... BUT AN APPLICATION OF MY PLUS-GRAVITY POWER WILL MAKE THE PLANE TOO HEAVY TO BE MOVED BY ANY WIND!
IF ONLY ITS STRUCTURE CAN STAND THE STRAIN...
DONE! NOW I THINK A BRIEF BIT OF RECONNAISSANCE WOULD BE IN ORDER!

OUR FOES ARE NOWHERE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA, BATMAN!
BUT THEY'RE NOT FAR AWAY, I'M SURE. OUR BEST BET IS TO SPLIT UP..
..TRY TO MAKE IT TO THAT HOUSE WE SAW FROM ABOVE--THAT'S CERTAINLY WHERE SAPPHIRE IS BEING HELD!
BUT BE CAREFUL! NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE THE MASTERS OF DISASTER TO CONTEND WITH, BUT THE BEING THAT KIDNAPPED SAPPHIRE, AS WELL!
YOU LEAVE HIM TO ME!
YOUR FRIENDS ARE VERY TENACIOUS, MARA, I'LL GIVE THEM THAT... BUT I SIMPLY WON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU FROM ME...NOT AGAIN..!
AND WHEN THEY'VE BEEN DISPOSED OF, I CAN MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
YOU DISGUSTING OLD MAN! I COULD NEVER LOVE YOU!
OH, I RATHER THINK YOU WILL. I CREATED THIS MACHINE TO KEEP MY AILING BODY ALIVE...
..I CREATED STEVEN, GAVE HIM LIFE ITSELF...!
..DO YOU THINK BREAKING YOUR WILL COULD PROVIDE THE SLIGHTEST OBSTACLE, MARA?
I'M NOT MARA... SOB!
MY NAME IS SAPPHIRE!

CHAPTER THREE
BURIED MEMORIES
WE HAVE TO FLY THROUGH THAT WATERFALL? I'LL GET MY HAIR WET!
THE VALLEY'S ENTRANCE IS BEHIND THAT WATERFALL, HALO, BUT DON'T WORRY...
...MY NULL-GRAVITY POWER HAS MANY USES, GREAT AND SMALL!
HEY, NEAT!
BEATS LETTIN' A SMILE BE YOUR UMBRELLA!
HERE THEY COME! WINDFALL, YOU DIDN'T KILL HALO LAST TIME...* DON'T FAIL ME AGAIN!
BUT, BECKY, WHY DO I HAVE TO KILL HER? WHY CAN'T I JUST...
BECAUSE I SAID SO! AND NEVER CALL ME THAT!
L-LEAVE HER ALONE, NEW-WAVE...
*BATO #10. --MWB

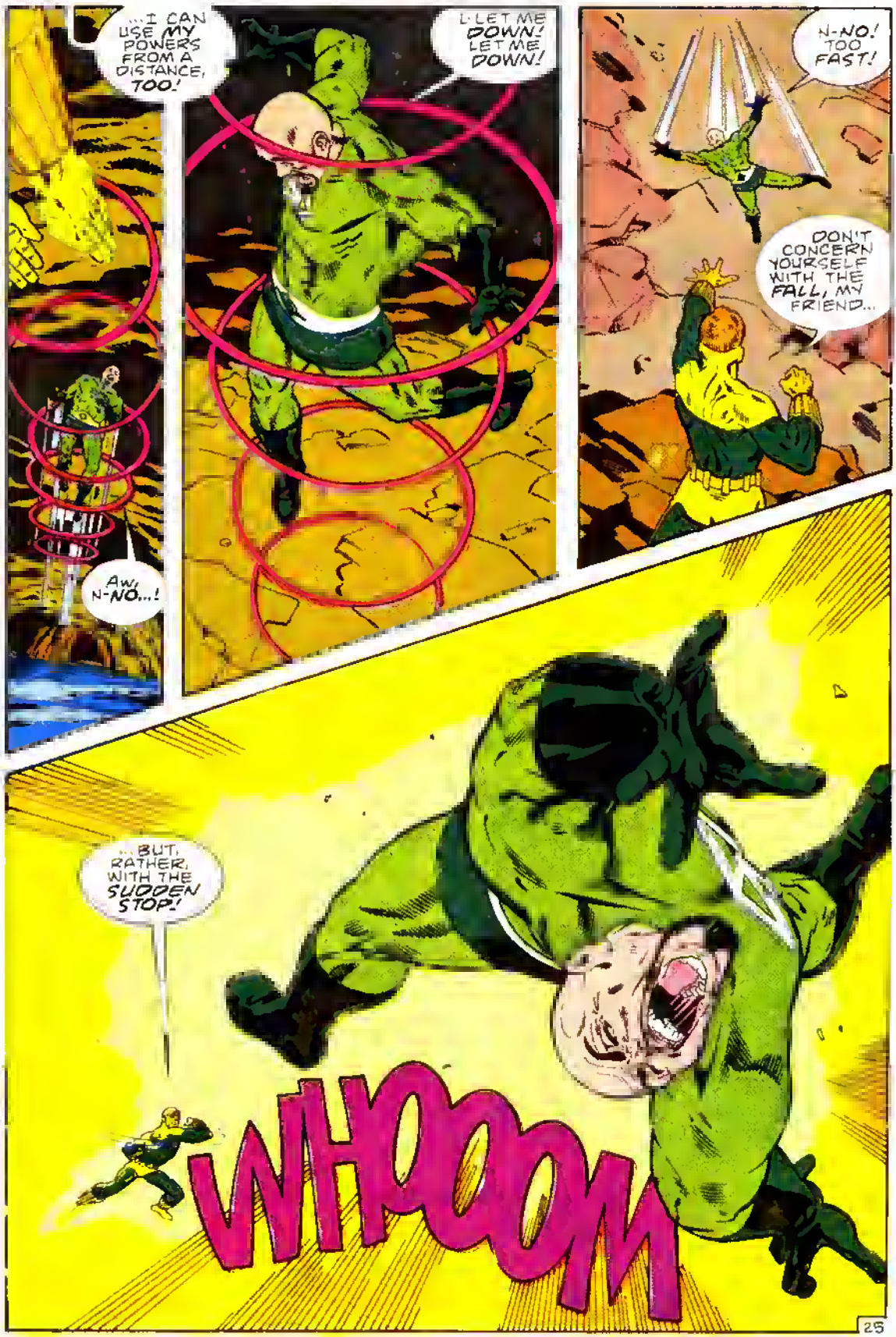
W-WHY YOU R-RIDIN' HER SO?
STAY OUT OF THIS, SHAKEDOWN! WELL, LITTLE SISTER?
I'LL DO IT OKAY? I'LL KILL HER!
LOOK SHARP NOW, TROOPS! THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE AROUND HERE...
...ANY-WHERE AT...
...ALL...
HELLO, BLACK LIGHTNING! LONG TIME NO SEA! Hahaha!
HALO--!
IT'S OKAY! WINDFALL WOULD NEVER HURT ME...

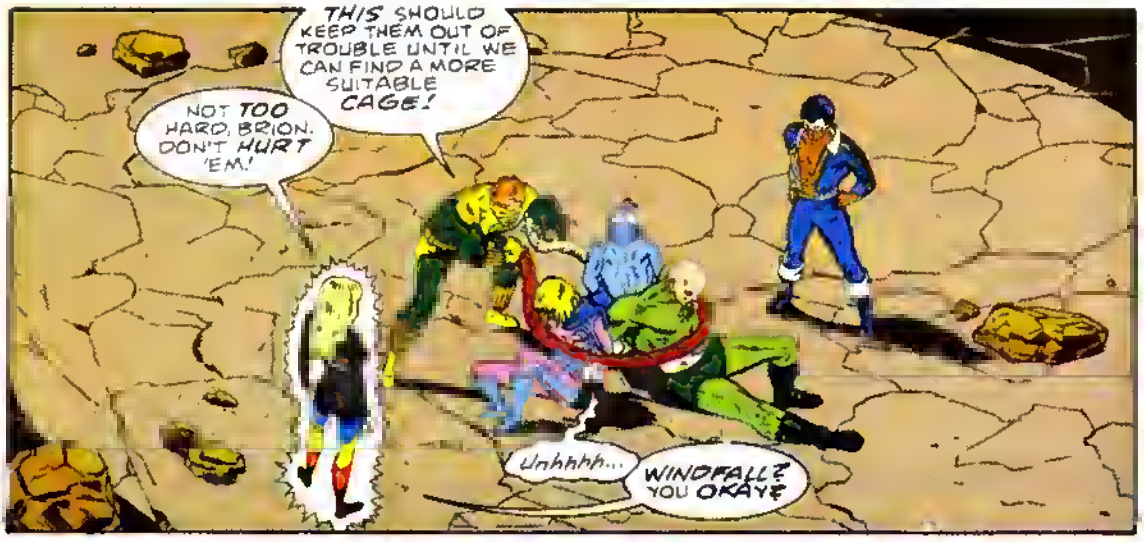
...AT LEAST, I DON'T THINK
YOU CAN GET OUT OF THIS SOME-HOW, HALO! TRY!
HALO'S FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE HAS AGAIN LED HER ASTRAY!
I HAD BETTER--
N-NOT SO FAST, GEO-F-FORCE...
...AS Y-YOU CAN SEE, I'VE G-GOTTEN BETTER WITH MY P-POWERS! I D-DON'T EVEN NEED TO T TOUCH YOU..
...T-TO SHAKE YOU TO DE-DEATH!

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY SHOCKING TODAY, LIGHTNING! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF?
SHE'S BAITIN' ME; USIN' MY LIGHTNING POWERS ON HER WON'T DO A BIT OF GOOD...
BUT IF I CAN GRAB THOSE METAL RODS...
...I'LL BE MY TURN TO CROW!
SSSSTT
AGGGGH!
SPLITTING APART--? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
A LITTLE ELEMENTARY SCIENCE, WHITEY!
I USED ELECTROLYSIS T'SPLIT YOUR WATERY FORM INTO HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN...
...AND LIKE I FIGURED, THE STRAIN WAS MORE'N YOU COULD TAKE!
NOW AIN'T THAT A GAS?
42

MEANWHILE...
I DID IT! BLASTED THIS THING JUST IN TIME!
SHE DID IT! Whew!!
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO HURT ME, WINDFALL!
I WON'T BE THAT DUMB AGAIN...!
...THIS DUST'LL MAKE IT HARD FOR YOU TO EVEN BREATHE--
--MUCH LESS BLOW ME AWAY!
WAIT. HALO, I SURRENDER...!

...I GIVE UP, I-- !KAFF!
OH, GOLLY! IT'S OKAY, WIND-FALL...!
...I'VE GOT YOU!
ALSO MEANWHILE...
CAN FEEL MY VERY ORGANS STARTING TO SHAKE APART...! MUST MAKE HIM STOP..
...BUT HOW?
Y. YOU MAY BE ST-STRONGER 'N ME, LITTLE MAN... B. BUT IF YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME, YOU C. CAN'T HURT ME!
OF COURSE...!
YOU ARE WRONG, MASSIVE ONE..


...I CAN USE MY POWERS FROM A DISTANCE, TOO!
AW, N-NO...!
L-LET ME DOWN! LET ME DOWN!
N-NO! TOO FAST!
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THE FALL, MY FRIEND...
...BUT, RATHER, WITH THE SUDDEN STOP!
WHOOOM


THIS SHOULD KEEP THEM OUT OF TROUBLE UNTIL WE CAN FIND A MORE SUITABLE CAGE!
NOT TOO HARD, BRION. DON'T HURT 'EM!
Unhhhh...
WINDFALL? YOU OKAY?

YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME FALL, HALO! I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD, ONCE NEW-WAVE FINDS OUT YOU'RE ALIVE!
WHY? WHY DOES SHE HATE ME SO?

FOR THE SAME REASON I CAN'T KILL YOU, I GUESS... YOU...YOU LOOK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE OUR MOTHER...
...AND NEW-WAVE KILLED HER! :Sob:

IT'S OKAY, WINDFALL, YOU'LL SEE...
...IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

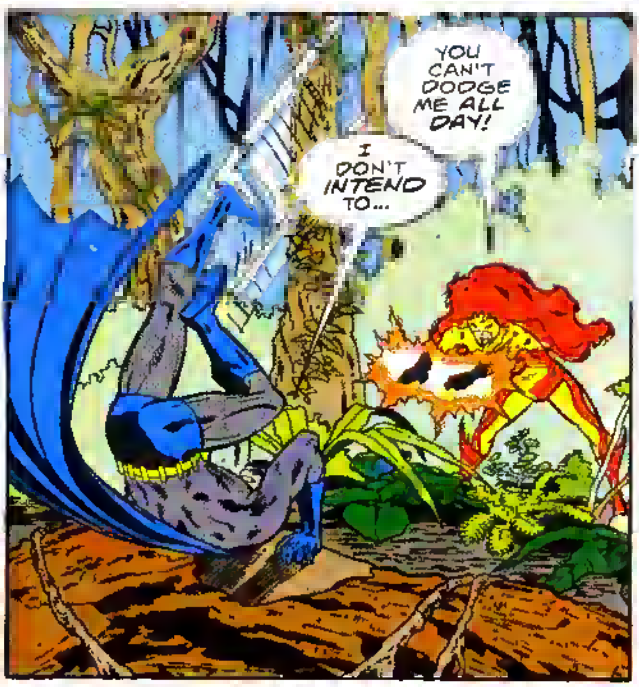
CHAPTER 4:
FURY IN FIRE AND ICE!
CAN YOU SEE THE HOUSE YET, BATMAN?
NOT YET, KATANA, WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF UNDERBRUSH TO MAKE OUR WAY THROUGH.
YOUR PLAN IS A SOUND ONE; LETTING THE OTHERS MAKE A MORE VISIBLE ASSAULT, WHILE WE APPROACH BY THE REAR, UNOBSERVED.

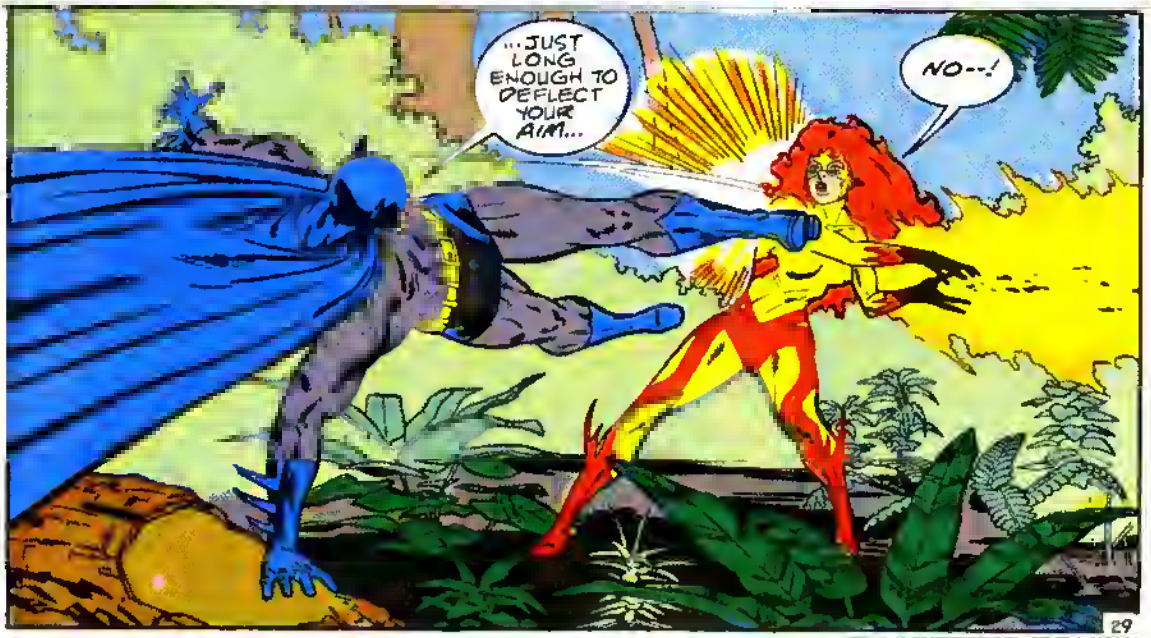
"HOPEFULLY UNOBSERVED."
YOU WERE RIGHT, JOANNE; THEY'RE TRYING TO SNEAK AROUND THE BACK WAY!
JUST LIKE I FIGURED, DARREL; NOW LET'S FINISH THEM OFF!

"FINISH THEM OFF?" IS THAT WHAT WE'VE BECOME -- NOTHING MORE THAN NEW-WAVE'S HIRED KILLERS?
I DON'T LIKE IT MUCH EITHER, HONEY, BUT YOU KNOW IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN EVER AFFORD THE [illegible] WE NEED...

THE ONLY WAY WE'LL EVER BE LOVERS AGAIN, IN ANYTHING MORE THAN NAME!
SSSST

BATMAN, HAVE YOU NOTICED? SUDDENLY THE AIR HAS GROWN--
--COLD! LOOK SHARP, KATANA, THEY'RE VERY CLOSE!
THEY ARE ON TOP OF US!
NOT YET...
...BUT THAT'S COMING!
HEATSTROKE!
FOOOSH
FOR THIS COMBAT, MY SHORT BLADE WILL SUFFICE!
LIKE YOU HAD A CHOICE! I HEAR THOSE THINGS ARE TEMPERED IN FLAME...!
...BUT CAN THEY STAND UP TO A REAL ...COLDSNAP?
CRKKK





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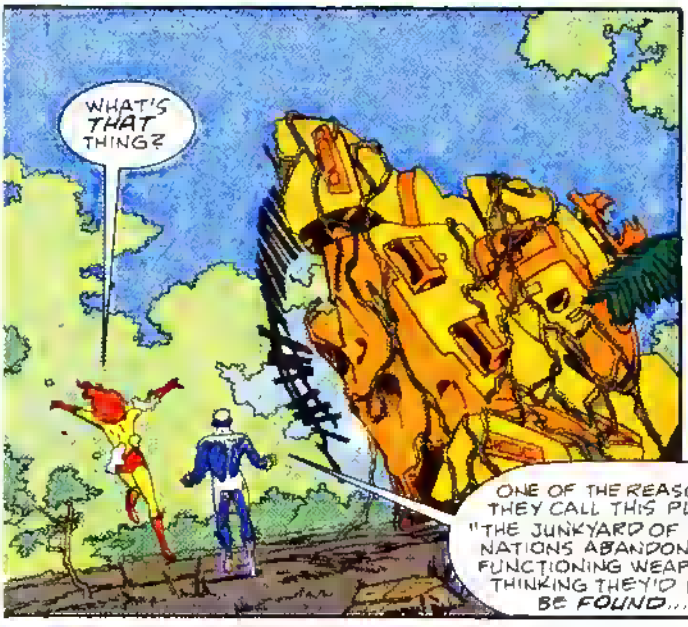
...AND FREE MY SWORD, THANK YOU, BATMAN!
NOW, COLDSNAP-- YOU HAVE DONE YOUR BEST TO KEEP OUR CONTEST WEIGHTED IN YOUR FAVOR...
...NOW SAMPLE A BLADE YOUR COLD CANNOT AFFECT-- IN THE HANDS OF ITS ONE TRUE MISTRESS!
AGGGGHHH!
DARREL?
SHAKKK!
HEATSTROKE'S CONCERN HAS TEMPORARILY TAKEN HER OUT OF THE FIGHT...
...AND THAT CHEMICAL FOAM WILL KEEP HER THAT WAY! SHE'S FALLING... WEAKENED...
...IF I CAN GET TO HER BEFORE SHE RECOVERS...

DAMN! THEY MAY BE ON THE WRONG SIDE, BUT THEY COULD TEACH THE OUTSIDERS SOMETHING ABOUT TEAMWORK!

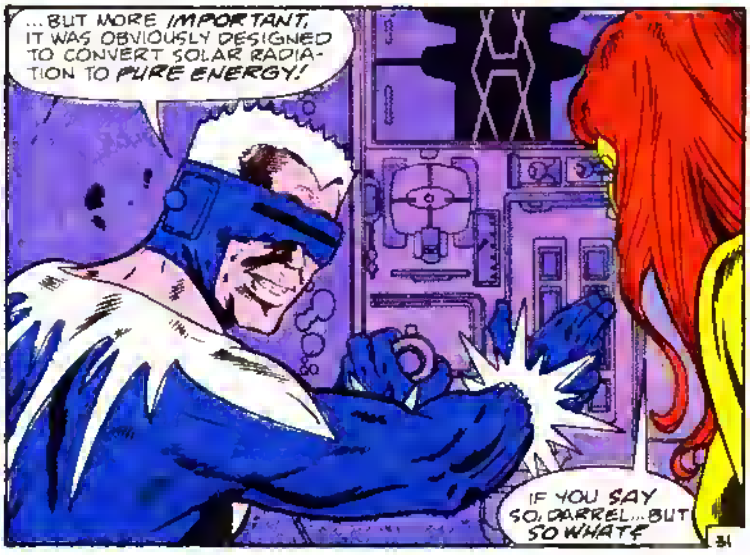
THAT ICE BARRIER WON'T HOLD THEM OFF FOR LONG--I SUGGEST A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL!
I'M WITH YOU, LOVER!

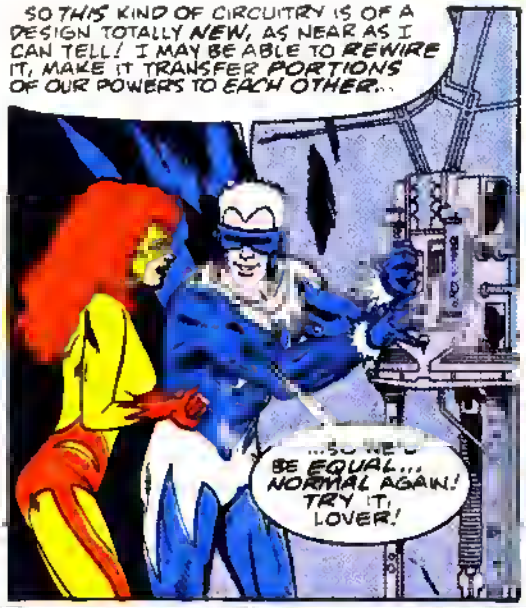

WHAT'S THAT THING?

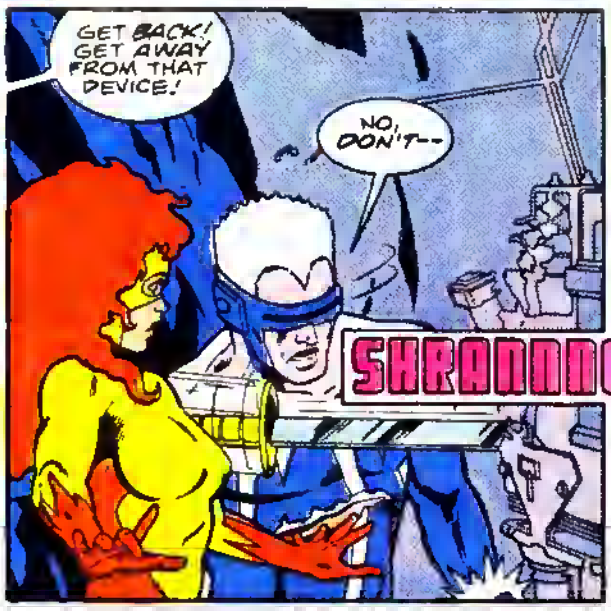
...BUT THIS WOULD MAKE A PERFECT SPOT TO AMBUSH THE BATMAN AND KATANA FROM, WHEN THEY--
MY GOD!
WHAT IS IT, DARREL?

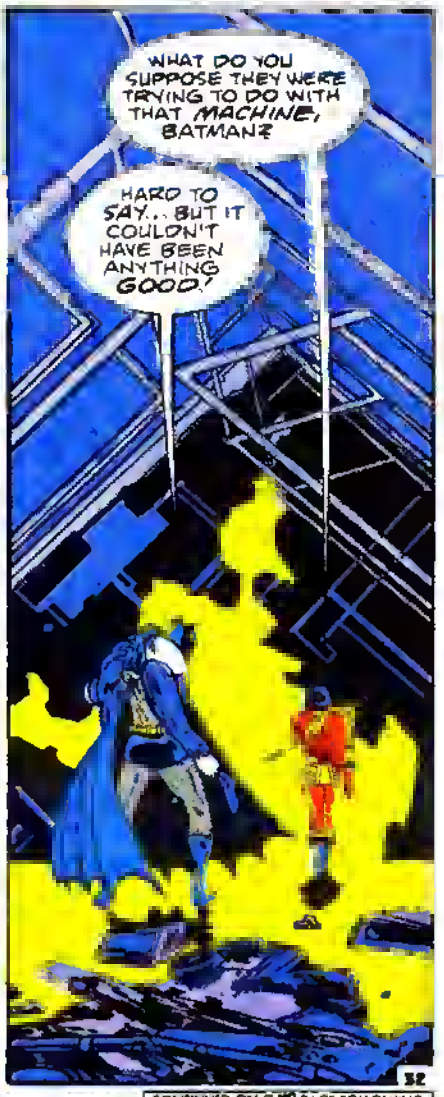
ONE OF THE REASONS THEY CALL THIS PLACE "THE JUNKYARD OF DOOM!" NATIONS ABANDONED MALFUNCTIONING WEAPONS HERE, THINKING THEY'D NEVER BE FOUND...

THAT MECHANISM... IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE THE POWER SOURCE FOR THIS TANK...


...BUT MORE IMPORTANT, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO CONVERT SOLAR RADIATION TO PURE ENERGY!
IF YOU SAY SO, DARREL...BUT SO WHAT?


SO THIS KIND OF CIRCUITRY IS OF A DESIGN TOTALLY NEW, AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL! I MAY BE ABLE TO REWIRE IT, MAKE IT TRANSFER PORTIONS OF OUR POWERS TO EACH OTHER...
...SO WE'LL BE EQUAL... NORMAL AGAIN! TRY IT, LOVER!





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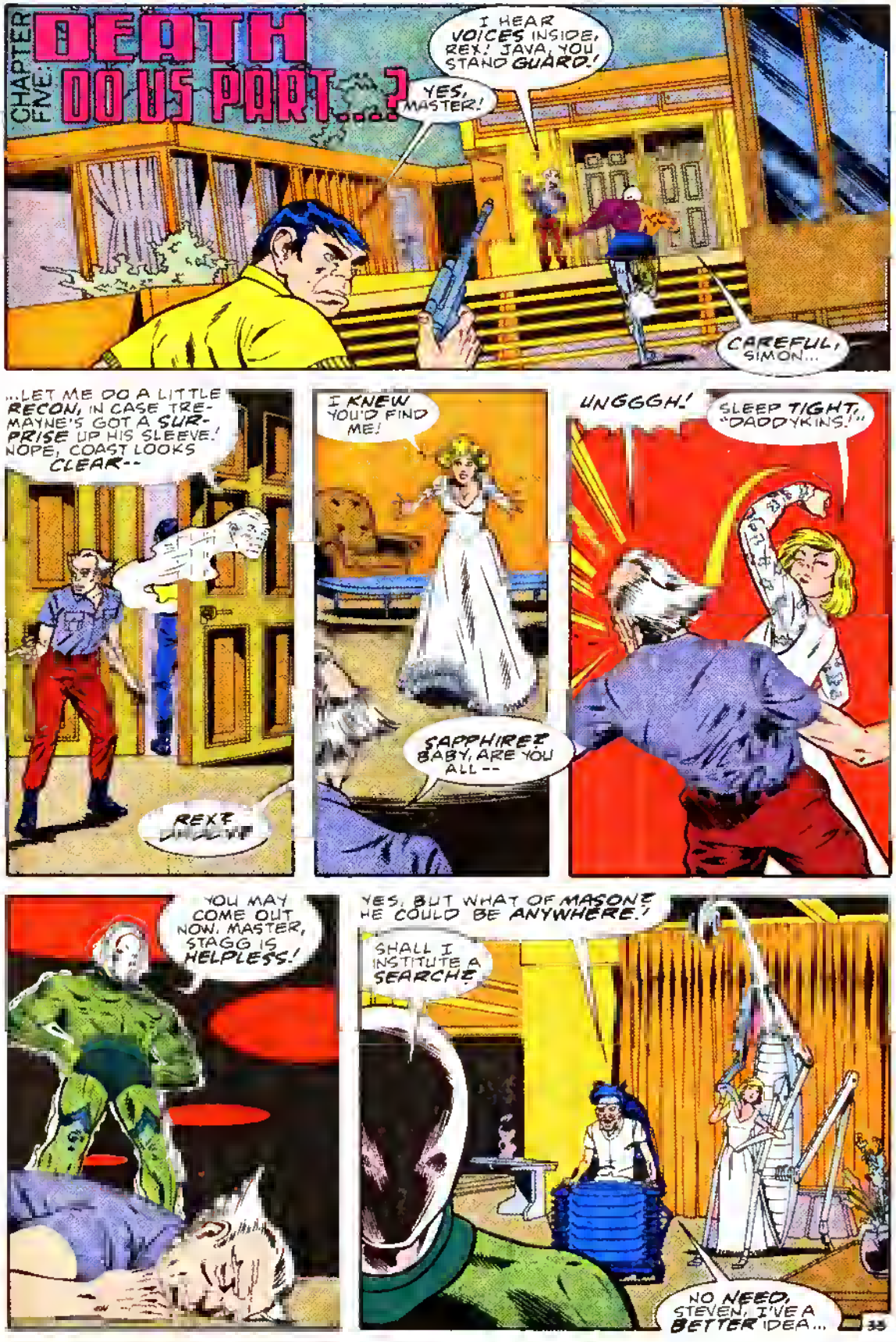
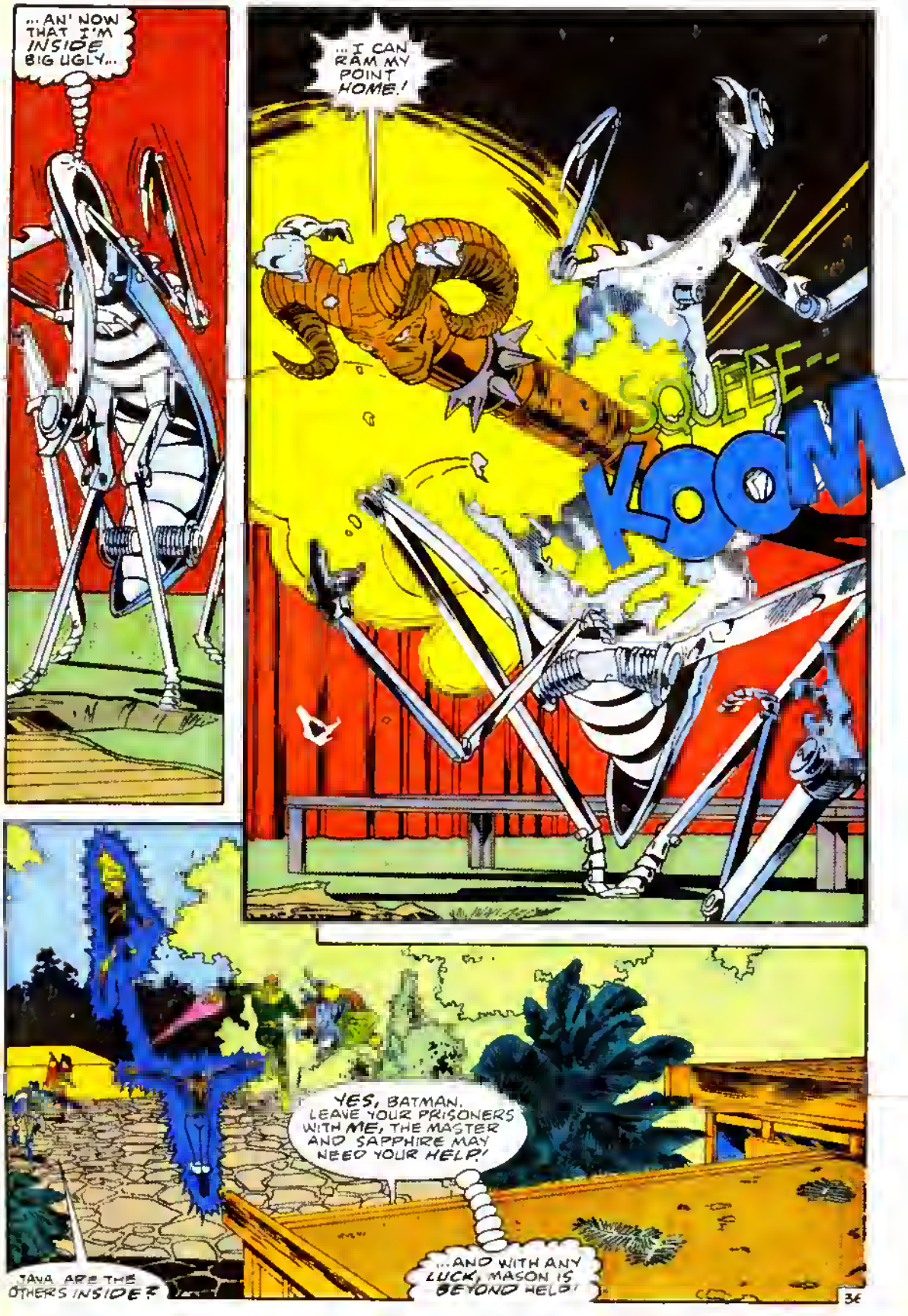
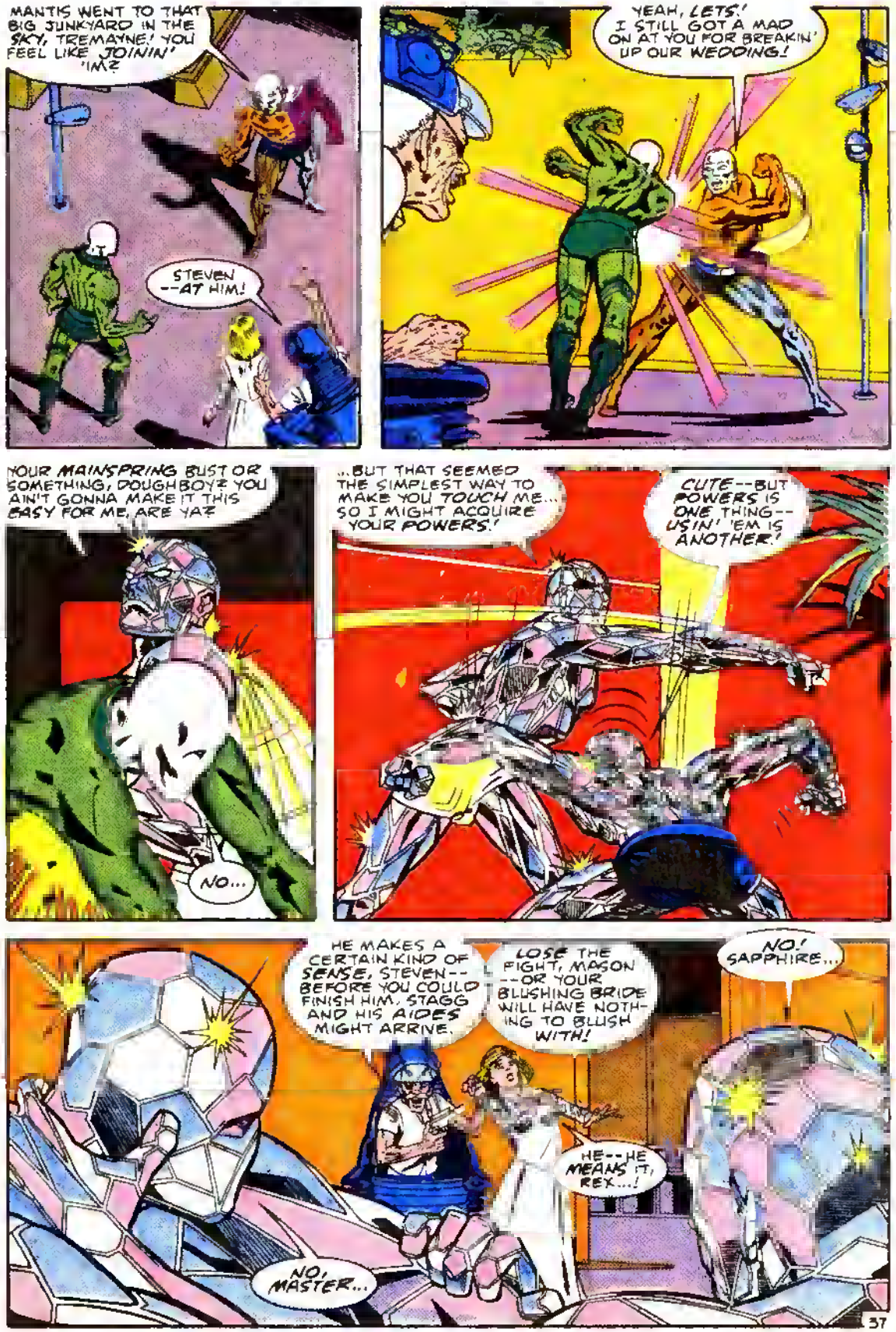

CHAPTER FIVE:
DEATH DO US PART...?
I HEAR VOICES INSIDE, REX! JAVA, YOU STAND GUARD!
YES, MASTER!
CAREFUL, SIMON...
...LET ME DO A LITTLE RECON, IN CASE TREMAYNE'S GOT A SURPRISE UP HIS SLEEVE! NOPE, COAST LOOKS CLEAR--
REX?
I KNEW YOU'D FIND ME!
SAPPHIRE? BABY, ARE YOU ALL--
UNGGGH!
SLEEP TIGHT, "DADDYKINS!"
YOU MAY COME OUT NOW, MASTER, STAGG IS HELPLESS!
YES, BUT WHAT OF MASON? HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
SHALL I INSTITUTE A SEARCH?
NO NEED, STEVEN, I'VE A BETTER IDEA...
35

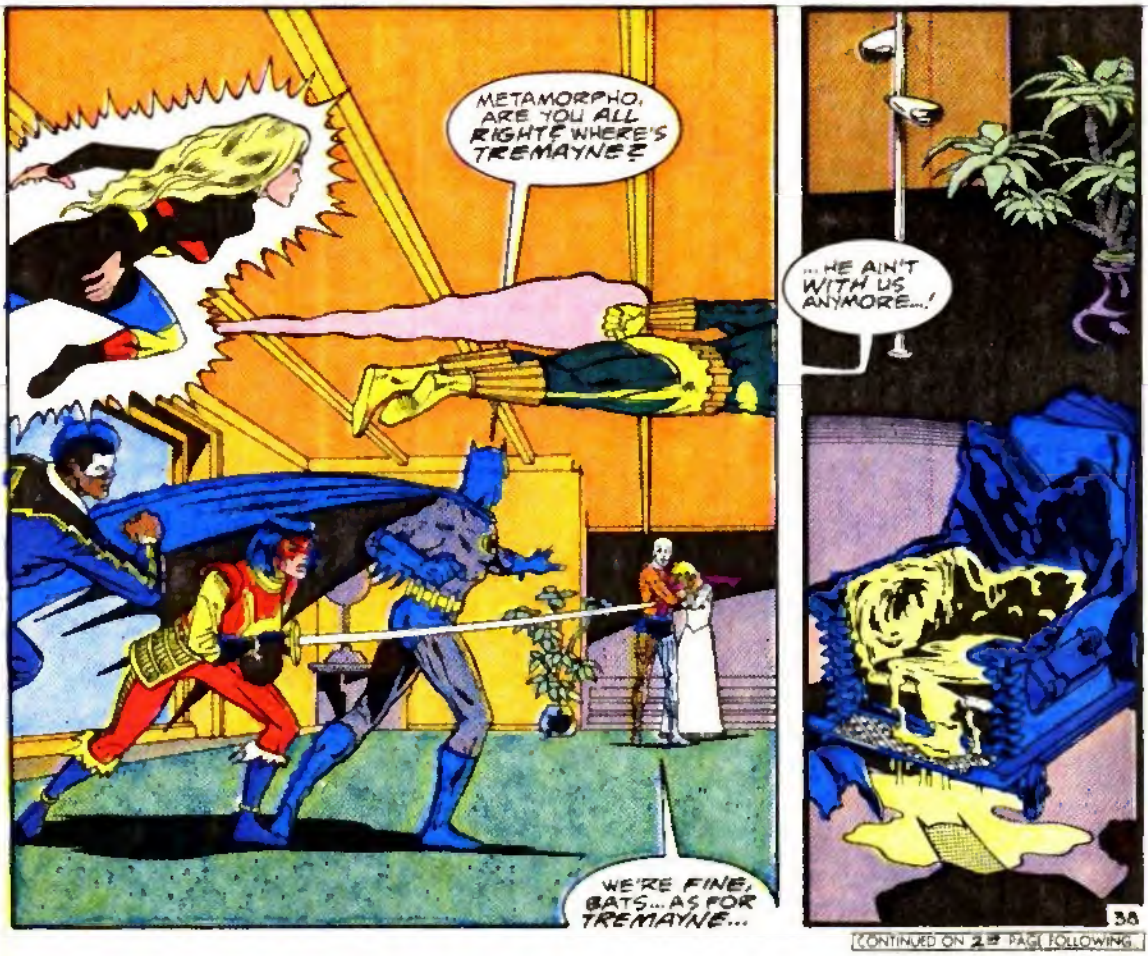
SHOW YOURSELF, MASON... UNLESS YOU'D RATHER I UNLEASHED MANTIS ON THE GIRL!
NEVER ONE TO FACE A THREAT WHEN THERE'S A SKIRT TO HIDE BEHIND, eh, TREMAYNE?
THERE YOU ARE! I REMEMBER WHAT FUN YOU HAD BATTLING MANTIS LAST TIME...
...WELL, I THINK HE DESERVES A REMATCH AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! THIS NEW MODEL IS EVEN BETTER THAN THE LAST...
AND SHOULD YOU LEAVE THE FIGHT, HE'S UNDER ORDERS TO FIND AND KILL THE GIRL! TA, TA!
GOTTA TAKE THIS OVERGROWN ERECTOR SET OUT FAST... AN ACID BATH OUGHTTA DISSOLVE HIM TO SLAG, AND THEN--
SCRATCH THAT IDEA! AS A LIQUID, I CAN'T GET NEAR 'IM!
WHIRR

SOMETHIN' A LITTLE MORE SOLID'S CALLED FOR HERE...
...LIKE A DIAMOND DRILL! I TOOK 'IM OUT THIS WAY IN OUR LAST GO-'ROUND...
RRRAWWN
WHUD
KRASSSH
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA! TREMAYNE SAID HE WAS BETTER'N EVER... HARDER, TOO...
...BUT I'M NOT OUT YET! I MANAGED T'PUT A PIN-POINT HOLE IN 'IM...
...AN' BY STRETCHIN' THE POINT AS A GOLD WIRE, I CAN THREAD THROUGH THAT HOLE...


...AN' NOW THAT I'M INSIDE BIG UGLY...
...I CAN RAM MY POINT HOME!
SQUEEE--
KOOM
YES, BATMAN. LEAVE YOUR PRISONERS WITH ME, THE MASTER AND SAPPHIRE MAY NEED YOUR HELP!
...AND WITH ANY LUCK, MASON IS BEYOND HELP!
JAVA ARE THE OTHERS INSIDE?


MANTIS WENT TO THAT BIG JUNKYARD IN THE SKY, TREMAYNE! YOU FEEL LIKE JOININ' 'IM?
STEVEN --AT HIM!
YEAH, LETS.' I STILL GOT A MAD ON AT YOU FOR BREAKIN' UP OUR WEDDING!
YOUR MAINSPRING BUST OR SOMETHING, DOUGHBOY? YOU AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT THIS EASY FOR ME, ARE YA?
NO...
..BUT THAT SEEMED THE SIMPLEST WAY TO MAKE YOU TOUCH ME... SO I MIGHT ACQUIRE YOUR POWERS.'
CUTE--BUT POWERS IS ONE THING-- USIN' 'EM IS ANOTHER.'
HE MAKES A CERTAIN KIND OF SENSE, STEVEN-- BEFORE YOU COULD FINISH HIM, STAGG AND HIS AIDES MIGHT ARRIVE.
LOSE THE FIGHT, MASON --OR YOUR BLUSHING BRIDE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO BLUSH WITH!
NO! SAPPHIRE...
HE--HE MEANS IT, REX...!
NO, MASTER...

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS... WHEN YOU CLAIM TO LOVE HER?
STEVEN, STAY BACK...
NO! PERHAPS I MIMICKED MASON TOO WELL... BUT I CANNOT STAND BY AND SEE SAPPHIRE THREATENED!
YOU CANNOT TRULY LOVE HER, AS MASON AND I DO... OR NEITHER COULD YOU!
Agghhhh...!



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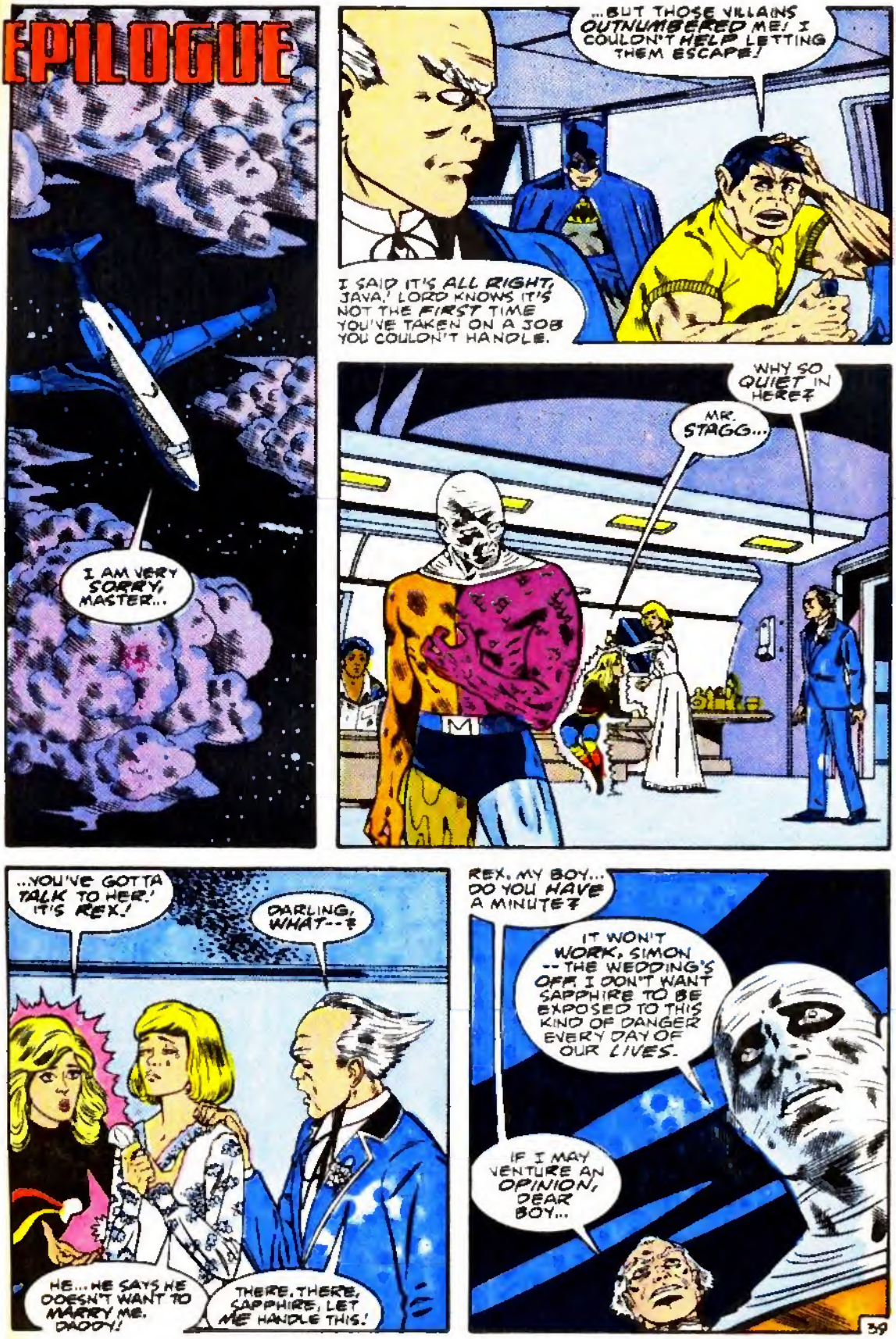
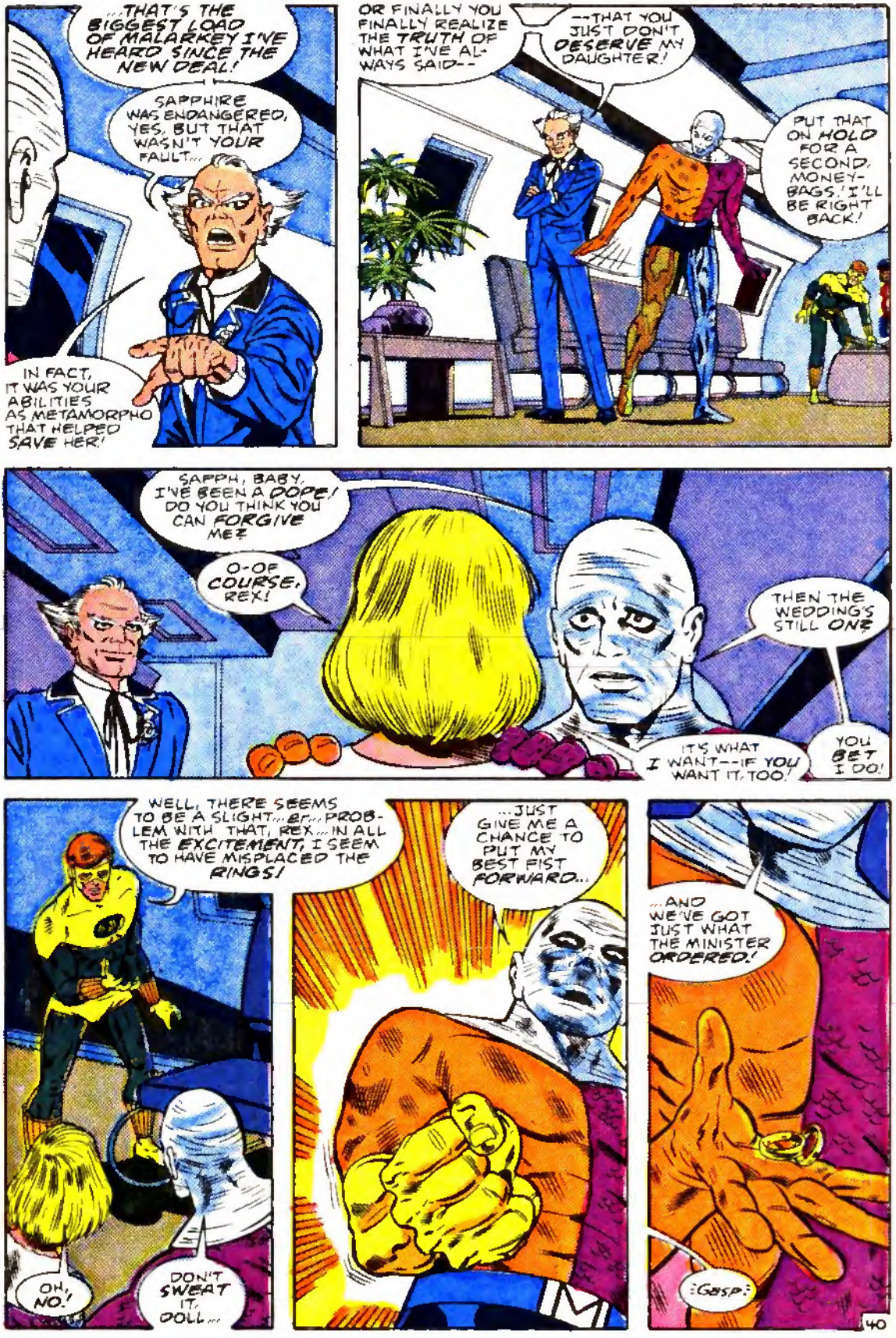
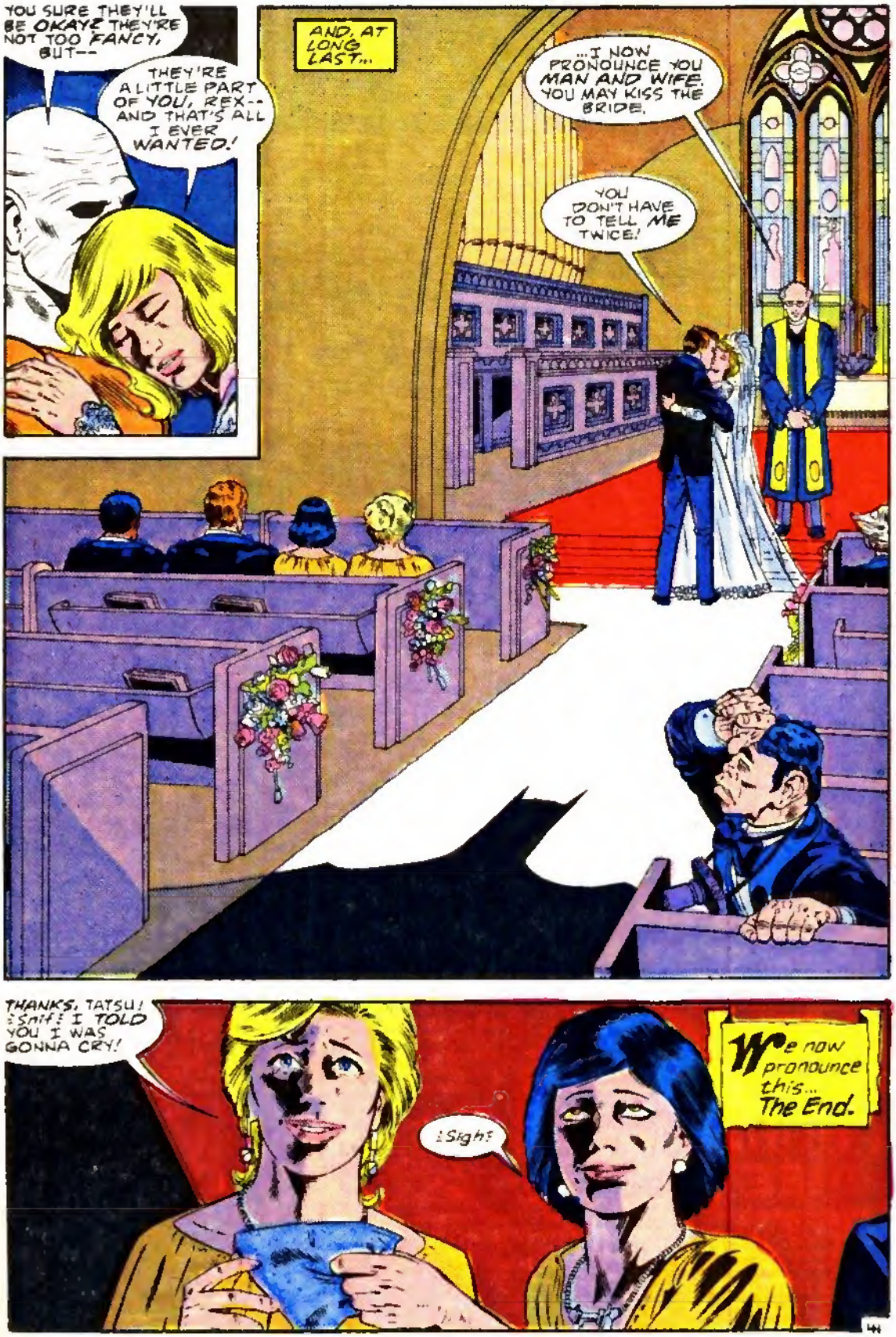

EPILOGUE
I AM VERY SORRY, MASTER...
...BUT THOSE VILLAINS OUTNUMBERED ME! I COULDN'T HELP LETTING THEM ESCAPE!
I SAID IT'S ALL RIGHT, JAVA. LORD KNOWS IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE TAKEN ON A JOB YOU COULDN'T HANDLE.
WHY SO QUIET IN HERE?
MR. STAGG...
...YOU'VE GOTTA TALK TO HER! IT'S REX!
DARLING, WHAT--?
HE... HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO MARRY ME, DADDY!
THERE, THERE, SAPPHIRE, LET ME HANDLE THIS!
REX, MY BOY... DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
IT WON'T WORK, SIMON -- THE WEDDING'S OFF. I DON'T WANT SAPPHIRE TO BE EXPOSED TO THIS KIND OF DANGER EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES.
IF I MAY VENTURE AN OPINION, DEAR BOY...


...THAT'S THE BIGGEST LOAD OF MALARKEY I'VE HEARD SINCE THE NEW DEAL!
SAPPHIRE WAS ENDANGERED, YES, BUT THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT...
IN FACT, IT WAS YOUR ABILITIES AS METAMORPHO THAT HELPED SAVE HER!
OR FINALLY YOU FINALLY REALIZE THE TRUTH OF WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID--
--THAT YOU JUST DON'T DESERVE MY DAUGHTER!
PUT THAT ON HOLD FOR A SECOND, MONEY-BAGS! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
SAPPH, BABY, I'VE BEEN A DOPE! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FORGIVE ME?
O-OF COURSE, REX!
THEN THE WEDDING'S STILL ON?
IT'S WHAT I WANT--IF YOU WANT IT, TOO!
YOU BET I DO!
WELL, THERE SEEMS TO BE A SLIGHT...er...PROBLEM WITH THAT, REX...IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED THE RINGS!
OH, NO!
DON'T SWEAT IT, DOLL...
...JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PUT MY BEST FIST FORWARD...
...AND WE'VE GOT JUST WHAT THE MINISTER ORDERED!
:Gasp:


YOU SURE THEY'LL BE OKAY? THEY'RE NOT TOO FANCY, BUT--
THEY'RE A LITTLE PART OF YOU, REX-- AND THAT'S ALL I EVER WANTED!
AND, AT LONG LAST...
...I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE. YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!
THANKS, TATSU! SNIF! I TOLD YOU I WAS GONNA CRY!
:Sigh!
We now pronounce this... The End.